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Muscogee Nation News

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February 2005, 24 Pages

Creek Nation mourns over the loss of three prominent Creek figures

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was saddened by the loss of three prominent Creek figures, Irene Cleghorn, Ken Childers, and Dr. Leola Taylor.

Cleghorn, a former National Council Representative for 16 years, passed away on Jan. 24, in Tulsa. She was born on Nov. 10, 1914 in Holdenville.



She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Tulsa, and was a member of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. Funeral services were held on Friday, Jan. 28 at Many Springs Indian Baptist Church in Holdenville.

Childers, a former National Council Representative and Speaker, Childers passed away on Friday, Feb. 4 at Saint Francis Hospital in Broken Arrow. He was born May 31, 1940 in Claremore to Mose and Violet (Williams) Childers.



In 1979 he was the first to be elected to the Muscogee Creek Nation National Council. He was elected speaker for five different terms over a 12 year period. He was also a member of the intertribal council of the Five Civilized Tribes.

He was the Indian Education coordinator for the Coweta Public Schools since 1977. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 8 at the First Baptist Church in Coweta.

Taylor passed away on Feb. 5 in Claremore. She was born on August 29, 1916 in Eufaula to Lewis Alexandra and Ethel Mae Davis McGilbra. Leola was recently inducted into Chilocco Indian Schools Hall of Fame for her contributions to Indian education. She received her Doctorate of Education in 1973 from OSU where she majored in school administration. She was currently employed with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a grant writer.



Funeral services were held Feb. 8 in Owasso at the

Family and friends welcome home Montemayor

by Gerald Wofford

LAWTON — U.S. Army Private First Class Leslie Montemayor was greeted by her mother Wendy, along with family and friends, after her unit, the 120th Engineering Combat Battalion Company C, was officially deployed at Fort Sill in Lawton, on Tuesday, February 8.



The battalion had arrived earlier that morning at the Lawton Municipal Airport and were given a Heroes Parade through the city. After arriving at Ft. Sill Military Base, the battalion was formerly ushered into the Rinehart Gymnasium where Major General David P. Valcourt, Commanding General of Ft. Sill, addressed the home-ward soldiers, family, and friends who were ready to greet and hug.

Military groups that represented another era were also in attendance. Vietnam era veterans proudly applauded this new generation of warriors as the official song of the U.S. Army was played.

The eager crowd displayed their support as numerous American flags were on display, as well as personal signs, such as, "Dad, we love you," "Welcome home," and "120th got 'er done!"

Montemayor, who was stationed overseas at Camp Taqaddum in Iraq, said the first thing she wanted to do was to eat an Indian taco.



Creek Festival to honor citizens during Living Legends ceremony

OKMULGEE — New to this year's Creek Festival is the inaugural *Living Legends* ceremony that will annually honor four tribal citizens who have devoted many years to the betterment of the Creek citizens.

"I've visited many tribes throughout the nation and have seen this type of program where they honor their tribal citizens," said Chief Ellis.

Four individuals will be selected by a committee from nominations sent to the Office of the Principal Chief. The committee will consist of the Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, Speaker of the National Council Thomas Yahola, all Creek Nation directors, and the executive director. All committee members must be enrolled Creek citizens.

Nominees must meet the following qualifi-

cations: must be a Creek citizen; must be at least 55 years of age; and must have devoted many years to the betterment of the Creek people or Creek Nation government, etc.

"We have great people within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that have served the tribe and its citizens for many years," said Chief Ellis. "We need to recognize and honor them for their contributions and show our appreciation for their efforts before they pass on."

The committee will select four individuals from submitted nominees and honor them during Chief Ellis's evening address on Saturday, June 18.

All nominees must be submitted to the Office of the Principal Chief at: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Creek Language Class Update

Editor:

This is a short report on the Creek Language Class started at the Tribal College. The classes were to have started January 5, 2005 but were called off due to weather. The classes started Monday January 10, 2005. There were 18 students enrolled with another later enrolled for a total of nineteen. The classes will run until April 20, 2005.

Jackson Barnett, Okmulgee

Thanks to National Council Representatives

Editor:

We, the Okemah Indian Community Board of Directors would like to thank the National Council Representatives who supported NCA 05-006. Your decision to revise the law will have a definite impact on the progress of our Nation's communities.

As you know, the Nation's hospital is located in our area. It is also the largest employer in Okfuskee County. Many of our community members work at the facility. The revised law will encourage them to participate in our community governments.

We extend a special appreciation to Okfuskee County Representative Lena Wind for her dedication and support.

Mvto,

Betty Scott, OIC Board

Rhonda Hill, OIC Board Secretary, Okemah

Loved one looking to find WWII Veteran

Editor:

I would like to find Pvt. Joe Spain, service number 38181246, Native American of Oklahoma who served in the Army during WWII with Co. L, 7th Inf. Regt., 3rd division. Pvt Spain served as a medic for my father's platoon. Joe never talked about the tribe he belonged to. My father only knows that Joe was from Oklahoma. My father has not seen Joe since he was captured by the Germans on Sept. 15, 1944 in France. We do know that Joe did come home from the war.

My father would like to talk to Joe again. Joe Probably thinks that my father is dead as he was wounded the day he was captured. The 3rd Division books all listed my father as missing in action. The truth of the matter is that my father was a prisoner of War for 228 days.

My father speaks very highly of how skilled Joe was at being a medic and working with the soldiers. My father remembers Joe and would once again like to have contact with him.

If anyone in your tribe knows of Joe Spain and he probably would be in the age range of 70-80 years old. Please ask him to contact my father. Mailing address: Morris F. Snyder, 124 Seyler Road, Fleetwood, PA or if he has e-mail capabilities my e-mail address is Pkewcout@comcast.net

Any assistance would be appreciated.

Pattie Essig, Boiling Springs, PA

Daughter of a WWII Veteran

Search for Tribal Member

Editor:

I am writing your office in hopes of finding a Tribal member that is able to come get my 17 month old son out of

CPS Care. My Aunt has spoken to my Uncle about this situation and Uncle George is 71 and unable to care for my son. I have been a drug addict for many years, I am sorry today. I have been looking for a place that takes children and single mothers and helps them through rehab. I love my son dearly, if you have children you can understand a parent's love. I know I am desperate, my heart aches.

I could very well be incarcerated until 3-14-07 and who would wish to give me back my child after loving him and caring for him that long. Well, I can only hope a person of God would be that person. Any how I am at a loss as to what to do and where to turn. I have wrote two tribal offices and one here in Texas and one Daniel Deerinwater at the Southern Plains Region and have had on reply this was several months ago. My hearing is in April 2005 there is an April Welch of Family Services in Okmulgee that has spoken with my attorney but she says the tribe does not want custody of my son.

So please help in any way that you can. My address is P.O. Box 1300, Lockhart, TX 78644.

Angelique Cook, Lockhart, TX

Expression of appreciation

Editor:

Dear Mr. Almerigi and Hospital Auxiliary:

This is just a "Letter of Appreciation" to let you know how much you have been appreciated through out the years with all of your important deeds in providing necessities to the Creek Nation Community Hospital and Okemah Clinic. We cannot express in words, how much your numerous significant changes have assisted in establishing an outstanding facility for the staff and assistance in prevailing patient care.

The hospital Auxiliary has made a tremendous impact on the facility and we would like to take this opportunity to, "Thank you and your Committee!"

The patients, families, and visitors have commented on the changes that have been made from the Chapel to the flower gardens, especially the flower gardens. Patients have informed us of how beautiful the flowers are and has reminded them that, "God is still at work with nature and most important with their health".

Thanks to people like you and your committee, we all have a facility to be proud of!

Once again, "Thank you and your committee: for the past year and wishing you much success for the upcoming

year!

Allen Wind, Hospital Administrator

Creek Nation Community Hospital & Okemah Clinic

Family thanks people for support

Editor:

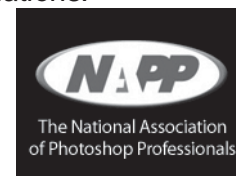
We would like to thank the following people for
please see **LETTERS...**, page 14



Members of the following two associations:



Native American Journalist Association



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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

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Office of the Principal Chief...by R.D. Ellis

Since Question 712 passed, November 4, 2004, much has been discussed about *Gaming Compacts*.

As many of our tribal citizens are aware, I have supported compacting with the State of Oklahoma. Question 712 was called many things but mostly it is funding to improve our statewide public education system. Our Creek students attend public schools and we all travel state highways. What is good for Oklahoma is good for Creek Nation. Many Council Members and many citizens oppose anything connected with the state citing, “Our Sovereignty.” Do you know what sovereignty is?

Only the United States Congress can take or grant sovereignty to Indian Nations. In 1988, Congress passed the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. This gave each state the authority to compact with Indian Tribes for Class III Gaming. This did not become a sovereignty issue, Class II Gaming, which we are familiar with, was a sovereignty issue and in the past, we exercised our sovereignty to operate Class II Gaming. The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) within the next five months will probably declare our present gaming operations illegal without a compact with Oklahoma. This will have a devastating effect on the gaming revenue that we depend on for many programs



and services for our people.

The 2005 Tribal Budget received over \$20 million from gaming plus \$15 million went into our permanent fund (tribal savings account). Some programs funded by our gaming revenue in dollars are the following:

• Executive Branch	-	\$520,000
• Office of Administration	-	\$1,426,569
• Human Development	-	\$2,200,000
• Community Services	-	\$2,00,000
• Tribal Affairs	-	\$869,000
• Office of Justice	-	\$1,160,000
• National Council	-	\$1,682,621
• Judicial Branch	-	\$1,094,638
• National Council Special Appropriations	-	\$2,095,893
• Independent Agencies	-	\$5,323,451
• Health Administration	-	\$1,651,029
Plus more.....		

Today I signed legislation to negotiate the purchase of a piece of property in Weleetka for that community. If this is successful, the money to pay for the property will come from gaming revenue. Holdenville wants to purchase two tracts of land as well and it will also be purchased with gaming dollars.

The expansion five years ago at Okemah to build a casino that provided jobs and money for our citizens was paid for with gaming revenue (\$400,000). Land purchases at Eufaula and Checotah were with gaming revenue. Money to build the Coweta Clinic is gaming revenue. I could go on and on such as 500 Creek people are employed due to the gaming industry. The new Elderly Nutrition Center in Bristow was built with gaming profits, the \$2 million spent on school clothing for our children was gaming dollars. All the grants given to churches,

ceremonial grounds and fire departments are funded through gaming profits.

The National Council Special Appropriations to repair homes, citizens to travel, emergency health care for children, community vans and elder transportation are a few more.

I would rather that gaming was not our main source of income as many others feel but it is a necessity for now. Until we can diversify into other businesses, industries and create more conventional type jobs for our people, we need our gaming opportunities. This we are beginning by investing dollars into the Trade and Commerce Authority, Construction and the High Tech Industry.

Another product of gaming dollars was a \$500,000 Matching Funds Grant to construct Weleetka, Twin Hills, Sapulpa and Tulsa Community Centers in the 90’s. Let’s not forget funds for the annual Creek Nation Festival & Rodeo and our beautiful Veterans Memorial.

Class III Gaming should double our present earnings and provide more and better services for our people. This is why I supported compacting with the State of Oklahoma. I was elected to move this nation forward and to do the very best that I can for our Creek Citizens. This administration will provide the BEST Tribal Government possible with ‘*assets to serve our people*’.

Remember, the compact on Class III Gaming with the State of Oklahoma is not a “Sovereignty Issue”. The sovereignty issue was addressed when Class II Gaming (what we now have) went into effect.

The next town hall meeting will be at Koweta Community Center, March 10, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. *Mvto!*

Second opinionby Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Principal Chief Ellis, Sherry Corbin and I went to Washington, D.C on January 30th and returned on February 3rd. Along with the four other Chief’s and Governor’s of the Five Civilized Tribes Intertribal Council, we met with the Washington delegation from Oklahoma. We were well received by all that we met with.

I was saddened to experience being searched constantly at every building that we entered; and there were several. Even the monuments had walls around them and you could only enter in one way. I remember when none of this in place back in 1970-1974. On Saturday, February 5th, my youngest grandson, age 7, went from Okmulgee to my house. When we were returning, we saw a small herd of deer, about 10 or 12, leaping across the road ahead of us. My grandson was really awed by this sight and he spoke of this several times during the day.

As I took part in the searches and saw the walls, it gave me a feeling that this Nation lives in great fear. I was more amazed at my grandson to have the ability to see the deer’s leaping across the road and that is when I knew that we in Oklahoma are truly blessed with being free.

The following is another excerpt from Forty-Second Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology To The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution dated 1924-1925: Another long version of the legend (origin) is contained in a work by Gen. Milfort, who claims to have lived among the Creeks from 1776 to 1796, and to have been made “tastanegy our grand Chef de guerre de in nation Creek.” We know that there was no such position as “grand war chief of the Creek nation,” every town having had its own tastanagi and its head tastanagi. Still, under McGillivray, with whom Milfort claims to have been associated, a kind of despotism existed under which a friend of the Creek leader might have been advanced to considerable power. Though Milfort’s work is written in an



intensely egotistical vein and contains numerous exaggerations and misstatements it is evidently founded on fact. The migration legend which it reproduces is probably correct in fundamentals, but Milfort has identified rivers and other geographical features in such a reckless manner that he carries the Creeks over a large part of the central United States and into places where the nation was scarcely known even by name. The legend is probably a form of the version current at Otciaopofa, McGillivray’s hometown, and has especial interest for that reason. It is as follows.

“When the Spaniards conquered Mexico everyone knows that this fair country of North America was inhabited by a gentle and peaceable people which, having no knowledge of firearms, was easily subjugated. It had only courage and numbers to oppose to the murderous arms of its enemies; in a word, it was defenseless; for what availed a bow and arrows’ against the artillery of an army, feeble in numbers indeed but warlike, intrepid, and led on by an insatiable thirst for gold, which this also, trusting people had been unfortunate enough to display in their eyes.”

please see **SECOND....**, page 14

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the November 29, emergency session.

November 29, Emergency session

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek District; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh District; **Sue Johnson**, Muskogee District; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa District;



Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

a discussion on State Question 713 was conducted.

December 18th, Regular session

Absent were: **Nancy Watson**, Okfuksee District; **Robert Jones**, Okmulgee District; **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-125, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a license and service agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Administration and Global Software Corporation;
- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-126, authorizing the Principal Chief to designate the use of certain property located in Hughes County, Oklahoma;
- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-128, authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate for and purchase a restricted mineral interest in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma;
- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-130, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an easement contract and convey an easement to East Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. for the purpose of providing and maintaining electrical services to the property utilized by Duck Creek Indian Community;
- approved as amended (20-2-1) TR 04-131, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of land in McIntosh County, Oklahoma for the purpose of constructing a health facility/senior assistant living center;
- voting no were: **Parish**, Muskogee; and **Williams**, Okmulgee;
- abstain were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;
- killed on the floor (23-0-0) TR 04-132, confirming the nomination of **Dr. Pete G. Coser** to serve on the Oklahoma Tribal University Board of Regents;
- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-133, confirming the nomination of **Robert F. Bible** to serve on the Oklahoma Tribal University Board of Regents;
- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-134, confirming the nomination of **Ramona J. Mason** to serve on the Oklahoma Tribal University Board of Regents;
- approved (22-1-0) TR 04-135, confirming the nomination of **Pandee Moore** to serve on the Oklahoma Tribal University Board of Regents;

voting no were: **Fields**, Tukvptce;

representative **Jones** arrived before vote count was taken;

representative **Barnett** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-136, confirming the nomination of **Sharon Mouss** to serve on the Oklahoma Tribal University Board of Regents;
- representative **Barnett** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (14-9-0) TR 04-138, confirming the nomination of **Bret Hayes** to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System Board of Directors;

voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **S. Johnson**, Muskogee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Quiett**, Tulsa; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

representative **Barnett** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved unanimously (23-0-0) TR 04-141, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute “AIA Document G701-2001” related to the “Construction Management Services Contract” between the Nation and Flintco, Inc. for costs associated with excavation, foundation and steel work at the healthcare clinic in Wagoner County;

- approved as amended (24-0-0) NCA 04-165, authorizing a special appropriation to American Red Cross for the continuance of services in Okmulgee and Okfuskee Counties;

- approved as amended (22-2-0) NCA 04-215, authorizing a special appropriation to Muskogee area art council to purchase a life-size bronze eagle sculpture to be placed at Honor Height Park in Honor of all military who fought for our Freedom;

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee; and **Fields**, Tukvptce;

- approved (17-7-0) NCA 04-216, authorizing a special appropriation to the Okmulgee High School athletic department for the renovation of Harmon Stadium;

Harjo, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Quiett**, Tulsa;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-217, appropriating a COPS Tribal Resources grant match and authorizing the expenditure of the COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program Equipment award for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police Department;

representative **K. Johnson** was out of seat at the time of casting of vote;

- approved as amended (23-0-0) NCA 04-219, appropriating funds for the purchase of a mineral interest on tribal property located in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma;

- approved (23-1-0) NCA 04-221, authorizing a special appropriation to the A.C.C.E.S. Indian Club of the Haskell Indian Nations University;

voting no were: **Golden**, Okfuskee;

- approved unanimously (24-0-0) NCA 04-222, amending NCA 04-131 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending Title 16, Chapter Four of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and amending and repealing certain laws to reorganize the existing structure of Lighthouse Police) to correct a scribner’s error;

- approved (23-1-0) NCA 04-225, authorizing a special appropriation for a Muscogee (Creek) Citizen who needs handicap accessibility in the home;

voting no were: **Ade**, Tukvptce;

representative **Golden** was out of seat at time of casting of

vote;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-226, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Communications Department Fiscal Year 2005 Budget;

- approved (23-1-0) NCA 04-228, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the legal services courts costs & publication fee revolving fund;

voting no were: **Parish**, Muskogee;

representative **Williams** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-231, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) Citizen for medical expenses;

representative **Wind** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (21-1-1) NCA 04-233, repealing NCA 03-242 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriation funds for the purchase, construction, and erection of a building that will be in addition to the Creek Nation Tulsa Casino to provide extra floor space for additional electronic gaming machines) and to appropriate funds for the renovation project at Creek Nation Tulsa Casino;

representative **Wind** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-234, authorizing a special appropriation for the tribal driveways department to purchase a steel building;

representatives **Ade** and **Wind** were out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-235, authorizing the expenditure of the 2004 Native American library services grant award for the cultural and historic preservation (library services)

representatives **Ade** and **Wind** were out of seat at time of casting of vote;

- approved (22-0-0) NCA 04-238, authorizing the appropriation of the FY 2004 transportation improvement funds made available to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation through the Indian reservation roads program annual funding agreement.

January 6th, Emergency session

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh; **Sandra Golden**, Okfuskee; **Robert Jones**, Okmulgee; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Shirlene Ade**, Tukvptce; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (21-0-0) NCR 04-004, authorizing the speaker to execute a special attorney contract between the National Council, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and **David McCullough**, attorney at law, of the law firm of Michael Minnis & Associates, P.C.;

- approved (20-1-0) TR 04-142, creating and authorizing the negotiation team on tobacco compact issues with the State of Oklahoma;

voting no were: **Parish**, Muskogee;

- approved (20-1-0) TR 04-143, sending objections to the United States Secretary of the interior to certain provisions of Class III Gaming Compacts with the State of Oklahoma;

voting no were: **Quiett**, Tulsa;

- approved (20-1-0) NCA 04-239, authorizing a special appropriation for a special attorney contract with **David McCullough**, attorney at law, of the law firm of Michael Minnis & Associates, P.C.;

voting no were: **Cleghorn**, Tulsa.

Births

Chenoa Brooke Barnett

TULSA — Chenoa Brooke Barnett was born October 23, at St. Francis Hospital to Stephanie Good Voice and Roger Barnett.

She weighed 6 lbs. and 14.5 ounces and was 19.5 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are the late Kenneth Good Voice and Stephanie Good Voice.

Paternal grandparents are the late Joseph Barnett of Bristow and Stephanie Barnett.

Chenoa was welcomed by her mother and a host of relatives.



Sophie Helen Walker

CYPRESS, TX — Sophie Helen Walker was born on November 1 to Rusty and Paige Walker.

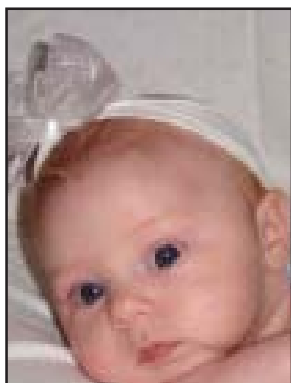
She was 7 lbs and 14.5 ounces and was 19.5 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Penny Hunt and Gary Hunt of Houston, TX.

Paternal grandparents are Russell Walker and Mary Colvin of Oklahoma City.

Paternal great grandparents are Jefferson Morgan II of Oklahoma City and the late Mary Waken of Enid.

Sophie has one older sister, Zoe Walker.



S. Walker

Birthday

Walker celebrates second birthday with family & friends

CYPRESS, TX — Zoe

Elizabeth Walker celebrated her second birthday at home with family and friends.

Walker is the daughter of Rusty and Paige Walker.

Maternal grandparents are Penny Hunt and Gary Hunt of Houston, TX.

Paternal grandparents are Russell Walker and Mary Colvin of Oklahoma City.

Paternal great grandparents are Jefferson Morgan II of Oklahoma City and the late Mary Waken of Enid.

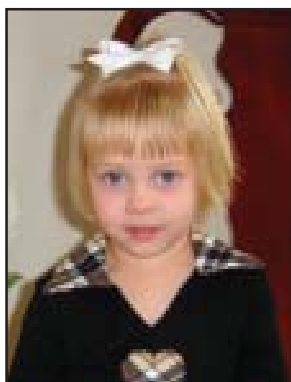
Zoe has one sister, Sophie.

Whitehead celebrates with Winnie the Pooh theme

KELLYVILLE — Eli Wayne Whitehead celebrated his first birthday on December 31 with the Winnie the Pooh theme.

He is the son of Orlando Whitehead and Chessa Teyah of Kellyville.

Maternal grandparents are Chester Teyah and Debbie Teyah of Cyril.



Z. Walker

Aunt Katie Smith turns 93

OKMULGEE — Katie Smith turned 93 on January 11. She was the Senior Ms. Muscogee Nation for 2003-04.

Katie was born in a log cabin in 1912 on the Verdigris Bottom along the Verdigris River. She still makes all of her clothes, still puts a flower in the vegetable garden, maintains her own home, loves to cook, drives herself all over town and regularly visits the elderly to keep up their spirits.

Smith is a fisherman at heart and would rather be on the side of some bank or in a boat fishing then almost anywhere else. She is still singing with her bluegrass band, "Umy and the Goodtimers" going on 48 years. She is in the



Paternal grandparents are Sherri and Steve Whitehead of Sapulpa.

Eli has one older sister, Sage.

Society

Girl participates in soccer team

MUSKOGEE — Robyn Brewster is a junior at Muskogee High School. She is a three year high school varsity soccer player. Robyn, also plays for a Broken Arrow Soccer Club — "The Hurricanes."

Brewster plays forward and was selected as the most valuable offensive player in 2004 by the 8 district coaches and VIP by her teammates.

She is currently the goal point leader and hopes to be recruited by a University and continue her soccer career in college.

Brewster has been approached to play for a National Soccer Team that will be traveling to Holland this summer.

Claybrook named recipient of the Mervin Bovaird scholarship

TULSA — Kendra Jo Claybrook has been named the 2004-2005 recipient of the



Whitehead



Brewster

Bluegrass Hall of Fame and is always ready to stand up to testify for the Lord any place and time.

Katie has inspired both young and old to keep going and that you are just as young as you chose to be. She attended the Ward schoolhouse and class of 1933 from Chilocco Indian School.

She belongs to the Fusv clan. Her mother was Sarah Tiger Thomas and her father was Mack Thomas both Creek Indians. As she likes to say, "I have seen the world change from wagon days to rocket ships, from wood burning stoves to microwaves, and from cropping cotton by hand to modern farm equipment that is bigger than most people's house."



Mervin Bovaird Scholarship to the University of Tulsa.

Claybrook graduated with honors from Tulsa Community College (TCC) in 2004 with an associate in applied science and health information technology. She received the TCC 2003-2004 Provost Scholarship while working on that degree. She was a part of the 2004 All Oklahoma Academic Team, and named to the 2004 Who's who in Junior Colleges as well. As a student of Native American studies, Claybrook was active in the Native American Student Alliance (NASA) of Oklahoma, and served as secretary for the organization.

Kendra is the daughter of Ed and Janice Screechowl. She is the granddaughter of Kenneth and Josephine Factor of the Sasakwa-Holdenville area, and Raymond and Angie Screechowl of the Henryetta-Wilson area. She is the great granddaughter of Daniel and Molly Cook of the Okemah-Holdenville area.

Kendra resides in Collinsville with her husband, Jerry, daughter, Racine; two sons, Talon and Josh.



Claybrook

JOM's Second Annual "Career Fair" a success

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Johnson O'Malley Program's Second Annual "Career Fair" was a huge success, outgrowing last year's facilities. The career fair was moved to Covelle Hall on the OSU Okmuglee Campus where 500 JOM students, sponsors, and presenters interacted on many chosen fields of profession.

The presenters included law enforcement from Lighthorse, Okmuglee Sheriff Dept., Okmuglee Criminal Justice Authority's SWAT team, EMS, and firefighters. They also brought their patrol cars, an ambulance, and a fire truck for the students to get a first hand look. Also represented were OSU programs that included automotive, air conditioning and refrigeration, computer technology,

nursing, watch making with micro technology, prosthetics, graphic design, and web design. MCN represented various career fields including accounting, child care, employment and training, CHR, and Trade and Commerce.

This year's "Career Fair" targeted seventh and eighth grade students to give them early exposure to a proposed career field, which will enable them to choose the proper classes as they reach their high school years.

Ray Rodgers, JOM Director from Sapulpa Schools, gave the morning keynote address and the motivational speaker at the close of the day was Brian Jackson, from the "I Believe" program who gave the students a very challenging message to believe in themselves.



Pictured above is the Okmuglee J.O.M. program members.

from the National Center or Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health.

Headlands Indian Health Careers Program now accepting applications for Summer 2005

NORMAN — The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is now accepting applications for its 2005 Headlands Indian Health Careers Program, to be held June 5 through July 30, on the OU Campus.

American Indian high school seniors and first-year college students who are interested in pursuing a career in the health professions are encouraged to apply for this intense eight-week enrichment program offering mini-block courses in calculus, chemistry, physics and biology. These courses are designed to increase the students' knowledge and prepare them for the required college-level math and science coursework in pre-health programs.

Students again will gain experience in the laboratory, strengthen their communication and writing skills, and attend interactive presentations at the OU Health Science Center Colleges of Public Health, Allied Health, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing. Field excursions to health clinics and hospitals also are included.

Travel, lodging and meal expenses will be provided for each student accepted into the program.

Applications for the Headlands Program can be found at www.headlands.ouhsc.edu or call (405)271-2250. Application deadline is March 15, 2005.

The headlands program is sponsored by the Oklahoma Native American EXPORT Center with funding

from the National Center or Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health.

Scholarships and Programs for Native American Students

Two scholarships will be awarded to an American Indian/ Alaska Native student pursuing a degree in a natural resources field. The scholarship amount this year is \$200.

This scholarship comes to you from the American Indian/ Alaska Native Employees Association for

JOM program will be hosting the Fifth Annual Challenge Bowl Competition

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Creek Nation's JOM program will be hosting the fifth Annual Challenge Bowl Competition. This year's competition will be held at the Creek Nation Mound on the following dates: April 6 elementary; April 13 middle school; and May 4 high school.

"The Challenge Bowl has been a valuable learning tool to assist the schools in teaching the history and ways of the Muscogee Creek," said Virginia Thomas, JOM Manager. "The use of the language has come to the forefront for the students and many schools are asking for Muscogee language speakers to help continue the language study throughout the year and not just at challenge bowl time."

The challenge bowl has been sanctioned by the National Council. Approximately 80 volunteers contribute their efforts to the challenge bowl. This creates an opportunity for the various departments to come together for one cause and gives Muscogee Creek Nation the occasion to show support to its youth for their educational endeavors. For more information contact Belvin Hill at (918) 732-7840.

NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation). There are two categories; one for members of the AIANEA and one for any American Indian or Alaska Native student in the natural resources field. The deadline for applications is July 1, 2005, and the scholarship recipients will be announced on August 1. For the application criteria and form, visit the website at www.aianea.com and click on Scholarship Information. Your contact for questions is Kurt Cates, AIANEA Scholarship Committee Chair, P.O. Box 306, Fort Hall, ID 83203. Phone: 203-478-3778. E-mail: kurt.cates@id.usda.gov

Tribal College Board of Regents hold first meeting

By Josh Slane

OKMULGEE — The Board of Regents for the Tribal College held their first official meeting on Wednesday, February 9.

Ramona Mason was elected as chairman of the board. Dr. Blue Clark was voted in as the vice-chair. The Board of Regents appointed Dr. James King as the interim president of the Tribal College. Dr. King accepted the position as an in kind service.

The Board of Regents will meet the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the District Court conference room. The public is invited to attend. Principal Chief, A. D. Ellis was also in attendance, as was Speaker Thomas Yahola, Judge Moore, and Judge Amos McNac.



Pictured above, from left to right, are Chief A.D. Ellis, Blue Clark, Pundee Ramirez, Robert Bible, Sharon Mouss, Ramona Mason, and Thomas Yahola, National Council Speaker

INSIDE STATE QUESTION 712: WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN? Part II

by Sara Gibson

In last month's issue of the Muscogee Nation News, we examined the *pro* side to State Question 712. While the passage of the state question effects all Oklahoma citizens, its impact can have more of a positive or negative effect on the members of the 39 federally recognized American Indian tribes which are headquartered in Oklahoma. To have a better understanding as to why some American Indian tribes have yet to sign the gaming compact, this month the *con* side of the recently passed State Question 712 will be examined and broken down so everyone will be able to have a clearer concept and understanding on reasons why some tribes have yet to sign the compact.

In case you missed last month's issue, SQ 712, is also known as the Education and Jobs Referendum, is a measure that enacts the State-Tribal Gaming Act. The Act contains a Model Gaming Compact offered to federally recognized Indian Tribes. The compact term is 15 years with automatic renewal for additional successive terms. If at least 4 tribes enter into the compact, it will not only allow more gaming to tribes but it will allow the racetracks of the state to operate gaming.

Why is the compact so controversial? The two main reasons for opposition continually focused on throughout the November elections were the moral issues of gaming and the sovereignty issue that American Indian tribes would face.

First, the moral issue: "Oklahomans from various sectors of society believe that gambling is immoral because of its widely documented, commonly associated problems such as: gambling addiction; child abuse; domestic abuse; divorce; the destruction of families; increased crime; exploitation of the poor; increase suicide; government corruption; economic instability; demise of local businesses; and gambling-induced personal bankruptcies." (Oklahoma Family Policy Council)

While question of morals played big in the November elections the position of the state's economic and education standings outweighed the concerns and legitimized the reasons as to why so many Oklahomans voted the way they did.

The second issue and more specific to Native people is the topic of sovereignty. There is nothing more important to Indian governments and Indian people than sovereignty.

There are basically three types of sovereigns in the

United States. First, there is the federal government, which is sometimes called the supreme sovereign. Next, there are state governments, which derive their sovereignty from the federal government, and finally, there are Indian governments.

Tribal sovereignty is an inherent function tribes have because they were the first form of government. American Indian sovereignty is recognized by the United States Constitution. Indians' sovereignty predates both federal and state governments. That means Indian governments have inherent sovereignty which is not derived from any other government, but rather from the people themselves.

The recognition from the United States for American Indians as being a sovereign nation came in the form of treaties. Treaties were binding ties between two forms of government such as the United States and an American Indian tribe. Once two governments entered into a treaty, they were recognizing each other as sovereign nations.

With sovereignty, tribes are empowered to establish their own tribal governments, write their own constitutions and by-laws and create and live by their own self-governance.

One reason as to why tribes have not signed the compact is due to the concern about sovereignty. Sovereignty is an issue which cannot and will not be jeopardized.

SQ 712 states that once a tribe enters the compact, it is binding for a term of 15 years. Once a tribe enters the gaming compact, they then are not limited to number of gaming machines they can use, BUT before they can install the new games — which are described as Class III yet in actuality still fall short of the real Las Vegas style "one armed bandits" — the tribes must first pay the state of Oklahoma an initial amount to simply install the games and then each year after that they must continue to pay the state. What this means, is that should a tribe decide to build a casino on trust land, which is the tribe's land, they must pay to use it. The question of sovereignty arises with this.

Why should tribes have to pay when the land is already theirs and when the state of Oklahoma already passed SQ 712, why should they have to go through the state in order to set up and install the new games when they are sovereign? Because tribes are sovereign, they don't have to pay state and local taxes. It should be stated that land in question must have already been places in trust prior to the pass of the 1988 Gaming Act.

As it stands, after the initial amount the tribes pay, each year the amount they will have to pay will be no more than 6% of their gross total revenue. So, if a tribe of starts off with a slow business and only grosses \$150,000, they will pay 6% but if the next year, they gross \$150,000,000, they will still continue to pay 6%. There is no cap as to how much the state will receive just a cap to the percentage they will receive. In reality, what this means is that tribes will be paying 25 to 28 % of the gaming revenue when they pay on the gross rather than the net income. In 2004, Indian gaming pulled in \$18.5 billion. There are now 411 Indian casinos in the United States stated the Washington (AP).

Many wonder why a tribe would enter into the compact and jeopardize their sovereignty. One possible answer is while it may seem like sovereignty will be threatened, one must accept that each time a contract is signed between the state or federal government, a little bit of sovereignty is forfeited. However, no tribe will ever completely lose their sovereignty.

The biggest reason tribes have agreed to sign and enter into the compact would be the amount of economic development that is possible for the tribes. Not only has this been what tribes who are involved with gaming have been waiting for, but many tribal leaders believe the time is now to seize the opportunity to advance. There will always be barriers to cross and bridges to jump. The advantages must be realized. One must consider the amount of help the different programs will be able to offer once the revenue begins to be generated. Some tribal leaders have stated that with the increased revenue, they intend to increase the number of homes that are built, the number of scholarships available and increase assistance in all of their other programs. This is all without mentioning the number of jobs the new facilities would create allowing the unemployment rate to decrease.

Not all change is good but change does happen, whether it is wanted or not. It is just a matter of time and patience in deciding in making the leap of faith in something you believe in or waiting out the storm to see what is yet to come. Although SQ 712 has already passed, at least now you, the Muscogee (Creek) citizen have a better understanding as to what the real story is and why some tribes have signed and some have not.

Creek Nation Casino - Tulsa: February Promotions

Get Away With a Year's Pay Through March 27th

What would you do if you could take off a whole year from work and still get paid? Tour the world, golf every day, or maybe spend more time with family and friends? Well, here is your chance during the Get Away with a Year's Pay promotion at Creek Nation Casino - Tulsa. Earn drawing tickets daily, Sunday through Thursday. Then, be here at 9 pm on March 27th, when we give away a Year's Pay and a new Ford Expedition. To ensure everyone gets a fair shot at some cash, we will award a month's Pay every Sunday in February and March. Sunday just won't get any better than this! Make the New Year one to remember and get away in a new

vehicle with a year's pay at Creek Nation Casino - Tulsa.

Escape to Money Mondays

Mondays through February 28th, 6pm to 10pm

Ladies, ESCAPE to Creek Nation Casino - Tulsa on Monday evenings for free massages and hourly drawings for your shot at 15 seconds in the NEW money machine. Plus, the two ladies collecting the most cash from money machine each Monday night will receive a key that could start a new Ford Escape on February 28th!

Tropical Two for Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 10 am - 2pm

Tropical Tuesdays are heating up with our new Two for

Tuesdays specials! Cache Card members over age 50 will receive double jackpots on selected machines, two for one lunch specials in our food court, and double buy-ins during Bingo's matinee session. One lucky senior each Tuesday will win a choice of \$500 in cash or a chance to spin the new wheel of incredible prizes.

Wheelin' Wednesdays

Wednesdays through March 2nd, 6pm to 10 pm

You're in for wild ride every Wednesday night at Creek Nation Casino. Don't miss the drawings every half hour for up to \$500. Two lucky winners each week will win \$500 and a key. And on March 2nd, one lucky person will ride off on a brand new Harley Davidson V-Rod motorcycle from Myers-Duren Harley Davidson of Tulsa!

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE PEOPLE: Keeping our native language alive
by Sara Gibson

There are over 500 American Indian tribes in North America, 39 have their capitals located in Oklahoma. In today's society, while Native Americans are continuously unified under the pan-American Indian stereotype, the one major component that will always set us apart, not only from other ethnic groups but from other tribes as well is our language. While there may similar languages, there is truly only one Muscogee (Creek) Nation language.

Before I continue, I must mention that while the language of the people continue to be passed down from generation to generation, it continues to die out at a faster pace than what we were prepared for or readily want or care to admit. As each decade passes, it seems new variations of the language surface, simply because long ago, our elders were told the only way their children would survive in the "white man's world" would be to let go of their language.

While elders pass on, the language and dialects they hold pass on as well, leaving the younger generations to search their memories of those times when they sat listening to their grandparents speak to one another, joking, laughing, telling stories about times past. In present times, many of the elders will speak and intermix English and their native tongue together.

In order to do our part in preserving our language

and keeping it alive, the language page has been created in order to serve the Muscogee (Creek) people.

While there is only one Muscogee (Creek) language, there are, however, a variation of pronunciations and spellings depending on which location an individual grew up. For example, a person from Holdenville or Castle may say or spell the word "money" one way while someone from Wagoner or Catoosa may say it and/or spell it another way. At times, the "correct" way to say or spell a word can be controversial in regards to who is right or wrong, but it all depends on who you ask and where they are from. The reason for such discrepancies goes back to the fact of the language dying out and continually experiencing change from one generation to another.

The Muscogee (Creek) language is vital to the people. Many outsiders do not realize the significant role the language plays in regards to the history, culture, values and customs as well as the economic development of the Muscogee (Creek) people. Without the tribe's language, a sense of self identity can easily be lost.

Our Native language is the heartbeat of our people. We must all do our very best in trying to preserve it for ourselves, children and grandchildren. No longer are times of past when it was "wrong" to be Indian, now is our time to show our pride and strength in our culture.

Beginning Creek paperback for sale
NORMAN — Beginning Creek provides a basic introduction to the language and culture of the Mvskoke-speaking peoples, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Indians. Written by linguistic anthropologist Pamela Innes and native speakers Linda Alexander and Bertha Tilkens, the text is accessible to general readers and students and is accompanied by two compact discs.

The volume begins with an introduction to Creek history and language and then each chapter introduces readers to a new grammatical feature, vocabulary set and series of conversational sentences. Translation exercises from English to Mvskoke and Mvskoke to English reinforce new words and concepts. The chapters conclude with brief essays by Linda Alexander and Bertha Tilkens on Creek culture and history and suggestions for further reading.

The two audio CD's present examples of ceremonial speech, songs and storytelling and include pronunciations of Mvskoke language keyed to exercises and vocabulary lists in the book. The combination of recorded and written material gives students a chance to learn and practice Mvskoke as an oral and written language.

Linda Alexander has taught Mvskoke language classes at the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. Bertha Tilkens is a consultant with the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing, translating and administering health questionnaires to Muscogee and Seminole people. Alexander and Tilkens are fluent Mvskoke speakers. Beginning Creek is 256 pages in length with 13 illustrations, 47 tables and was published in June 2004.

Small text block containing a list of items, possibly a table of contents or a list of links, with a small image at the bottom.

Large graphic featuring the text "CREEK NATION" in a stylized font, with a yellow ribbon or banner below it. Below the main text, there is a smaller section titled "ONCE CREEK" and some additional text.

GENERAL FUND:	BUDGETS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	BALANCE
MCNLEGALDEFENSEFUND	261,208.00	0.00	0.00	261,208.00
ECONOMICDEVELOP/LAND	224,875.00	1,400.00	45,175.00	178,300.00
TREASURY	3,231.00	0.00	(1,196.00)	4,427.00
ANGELTREE	2,333.00	0.00	1,066.00	1,267.00
LITIGATION&LOBBYING	34,903.00	34,903.00	0.00	0.00
GENERALTAXES&LICENSES	1,483,480.00	620.00	1,363,032.00	119,828.00
MOTORFUELTAXES	881,074.00	30,967.00	638,063.00	212,044.00
ADMINISTRATIONINDIRECT	2,474,631.00	4,856.00	2,353,800.00	115,975.00
CONSUMERLOANS	0.00	0.00	3,221.00	(3,221.00)
CREEKNATIONBINGO	16,630,680.00	61,464.00	13,158,149.00	3,411,067.00
CNPERMANENTFUND	1,131,943.00	5,176.00	596,767.00	530,000.00
TOMJOHNSONPERMFUND	0.00	0.00	108,033.00	(108,033.00)
CULTURALPRESERVATION	3,413.00	0.00	2,087.00	1,326.00
CODIFICATION	120,000.00	0.00	120,078.00	(78.00)
4-H CLUB	71,601.00	0.00	36,665.00	34,936.00
READINGISFUNDAMENTAL	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
READINGISFUNDAMENTAL	3,000.00	0.00	2,998.00	2.00
HIENSSLERASSETMGMT	0.00	0.00	72,021.00	(72,021.00)
NCWA	3,333.00	0.00	2,977.00	356.00
MCNOVERSIGHCOMMITTEE	287,718.00	51,045.00	205,649.00	31,024.00
FIRSTCAPITALMGMTPREM	0.00	0.00	78,578.00	(78,578.00)
BANKONECONSOLIDATION	0.00	0.00	58.00	(58.00)
TRIBALBUDGET	72,042.00	0.00	71,751.00	291.00
MCNFLAGS&ETC	2,900.00	0.00	1,891.00	1,009.00
MOTORVEHICLE	2,134,733.00	9,132.00	1,652,785.00	472,816.00
TOTALGENERALFUND:	25,827,103.00	199,563.00	20,513,648.00	5,113,892.00
DEPT.OF LABOR:				
WIA-TITLE I'02	22,611.00	0.00	22,340.00	271.00
WIA-TITLE IV'A'03	509,309.00	0.00	501,226.00	8,083.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH'03	107,986.00	0.00	100,497.00	7,489.00
WIA-TITLE IV'A'04	658,529.00	71.00	132,917.00	525,541.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH'04	488,332.00	0.00	155,004.00	333,328.00
WELFARE TO WORK'99	36.00	0.00	36.00	0.00
TOTALDEPT OF LABOR:	1,786,803.00	71.00	912,020.00	874,712.00
HOUSING&URBANDEV:				
HUD-NAHASDA'00	3,825,102.00	63,585.00	2,344,591.00	1,416,926.00
HUD-SPAULPA CLINIC	25,728.00	7,158.00	18,570.00	0.00
HUD-ROSS'01	102,593.00	0.00	12,945.00	89,648.00
HUD-NAHASDA'01	10,346,562.00	0.00	4,070,098.00	6,276,464.00
HUD-DRUGELIMINATION	118,220.00	0.00	103,155.00	15,065.00
HUD-FOODDISTRIBUTION	190,049.00	3,235.00	171,213.00	15,601.00
HUD-NAHASDA'02	17,174,584.00	0.00	4,576,913.00	12,597,671.00
HUD-NAHASDA'03	17,353,988.00	13,028.00	371,806.00	16,969,154.00
HUD-NAHASDA'99	491,526.00	0.00	491,525.00	1.00
TOTALHUD:	49,628,352.00	87,006.00	12,160,816.00	37,380,530.00
DEPT OF HEALTH&HUMAN SVC:				
FAMILY PRESERVATION'01	0.00	0.00	(345.00)	345.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION'02	0.00	0.00	(198.00)	198.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY'02	176,617.00	0.00	176,617.00	0.00
CCDBG MANDATORY'02	317,018.00	0.00	317,018.00	0.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE'02	29,203.00	0.00	29,203.00	0.00
LIHEAP'03	2,096.00	0.00	2,096.00	0.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION'03	173,724.00	0.00	170,142.00	3,582.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY'03	1,008,115.00	51,468.00	844,024.00	112,623.00
CCDBG MANDATORY'03	1,298,075.00	43,031.00	935,656.00	319,388.00
HEAD START'03	467,189.00	0.00	437,641.00	29,548.00
TITLE IV-B'03	223,693.00	0.00	223,693.00	0.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE'03	244,443.00	0.00	232,443.00	12,000.00
LIHEAP'04	219,501.00	0.00	162,745.00	56,756.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION'04	226,320.00	0.00	51,186.00	175,134.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY'04	1,486,113.00	2,003.00	173,627.00	1,310,483.00
CCDBG MANDATORY'04	2,493,150.00	6,215.00	1,319,139.00	1,167,796.00
HEAD START'04	2,378,880.00	59,265.00	1,557,373.00	762,242.00
TITLE IV-B'04	242,984.00	0.00	2,213.00	240,771.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE'04	234,740.00	0.00	446.00	234,294.00
TOTALDHHS:	11,221,861.00	161,982.00	6,634,719.00	4,425,160.00
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE:				
FOOD DISTRIBUTION'04	414,000.00	0.00	412,244.00	1,756.00
TOTAL USDA:	414,000.00	0.00	412,244.00	1,756.00
PROGRAM INCOME:				
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	35,217.00	0.00	21,839.00	13,378.00
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	757,130.00	55.00	257,470.00	499,605.00
USDA HEAD START REIMBURSE	139,617.00	0.00	99,412.00	40,205.00
EU FAULADORM ACTIVITY FUND	34,128.00	0.00	29,283.00	4,845.00
ELECTION BOARD	18,560.00	0.00	6,867.00	11,693.00

Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement

Quarter ending September 30, 2004 Prepared by the office of the controller

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending September 30, 2004 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditure, and balance for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the period ending September 30, 2004. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grants or contracts, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the second quarter ending September 30, 2004.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved in the comprehensive annual budget.

The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the year.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The **balance** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of September 30, 2004.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.

Muscogee Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

OKEMAH — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Services is a program designed to help American Indians with disabilities to prepare for employment based on whether their disability is a substantial impediment to employment.

American Indians residing within Creek Nation boundaries who are interested in vocational rehabilitation are encouraged to apply. If you would like more information about the program, visit their office located at 401 South Woody Guthrie Street, Okemah, or contact a counselor at (918) 623-1197.

AEDC signs agreement with Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

ARNOLD AFB, TENN. — The U. S. Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center entered into a formal agreement with the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town recently, marking the first such formal agreement for the center.

In a signing ceremony in the commander's office at Arnold Air Force Base on Jan. 12, AEDC Commander Brigadier General David Stringer and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town King Lewis McGertt, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU formalizes cooperation between Arnold Air Force Base and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town concerning the Native American Graves Repatriation Act and other Federal Acts and orders.

Frank Duncan explained that the memorandum of understanding establishes a formal working relationship between the AEDC and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and will be used to protect and preserve potential cultural resources that may be located on Arnold Air Force Base property.

"We're absolutely delighted to sign this MOU," said General Stringer. "We're a much stronger nation because of our shared heritage, so this is the right thing to do."

McGertt, a veteran of both the U.S. Air Force and the Army National Guard in Arizona who served in the Vietnam conflict and Operation Desert Storm, said "Our people will be glad to see the military is involved with the American Indians."

Before signing the document, the McGertt hearkened back to his military days, rendering General Stringer a military salute, which signifies respect in military tradition. The general, also in keeping with military tradition, returned McGertt's salute, indicating mutual respect.

According to Duncan, archeological studies on the nearly 40,000 acres controlled by Arnold Air Force Base have not turned up any permanent Native American villages or burial sites.

"But we have found that this area was important hunting ground and trade area which may have supported a number of seasonal camps for ancestors of the Thlopthlocco at one time," he said. "We look forward to working closely with the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and other tribes involved with our program to better understand the resources we have and implement the best measures needed to protect any site that may be located on Arnold Air Force Base Property."

Duncan said that the AEDC Environmental Management Division is working with a number of other tribes concerning the Cultural Resources Management Program and plan to sign more MOUs with other Native American communities in the future.

"As AEDC continues to work with the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and other American Indian tribes, we strengthen the quality of the Cultural Resource Management Program we have here at AEDC," he said.

Senior Spelling Bee

OKMULGEE — Senior citizens are invited to participate in a spelling bee at 2:00 p.m. on March 8 at Eastern Oklahoma Development District Area Agency on Aging, 1012 N. 38th St.

If you live in Adair, Cherokee, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, or Wagoner County and are 60 years old or older, you are eligible to participate.

Five places will be awarded with first and second place winners competing in the State Senior Spelling Bee on May 4 at the Oklahoma State Conference on Aging in Midwest City.

For more information or to register, contact Karen Sedberry at (918) 682-7891 or the Senior Info-Line at 1 (800) 211-2116.

Men, Women, and Co-ed Slow Pitch Tournament

OKMULGEE — This year's Creek Nation Festival Slow Pitch Tournament will be held on June 10 - 12, a week before the Creek Nation Festival. The nonrefundable entry fee for each division is \$165 in the form of a cashiers check or a money order payable to the Creek Nation Festival. Deadline for entries is May 6.

For more information please contact Victor Bear at (918) 732-7679 or (918) 261-2315.

Wild Onion dinners and breakfast sales announced

Okemah: On March 5, Springfield Methodist church will be having an all you can eat breakfast sale, at the Okemah Indian Nutrition Center. It will be from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. The cost for the breakfast is \$5.

Holdenville: On March 5, Salt Creek United Methodist Church will be having their Annual Wild Onion Dinner at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center

located at 224 E. Poplar, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost for adults is \$7 and children 10 and under is \$4.

Coweta: On March 5, Davis Chapel will be having an all you can eat wild onion dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost for the dinner is \$5. The church is located 1 1/2 miles south of Coweta on Hwy. 72.

Okemah: On April 12, Thlopthlocco Methodist Church will be having an all you can eat wild onion dinner. The cost for adults is \$7 and children, 10 and under, are \$3.50. The church is located 7 miles south of Okemah on Hwy. 27.

Okmulgee: On March 19, an all you can eat, wild onion dinner will be held at Big Cussetah Church, located 3 miles east on new Morris highway and 3 miles south on Prairie Bell road. The cost for adults is \$6 and children under 10 is \$3. Carry outs are available for \$6. The dinner will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Okemah: On April 2, Springfield Methodist Church will be having their all you can eat wild onion dinner. The cost for adults is \$6 and children 12 and under is \$3. Springfield is located 2 miles south on HWY 27 from Okemah, 4 miles east and 1 mile south.

Okmulgee: On April 2, Okmulgee Indian Community Center will be having an wild on dinner from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Okmulgee Indian Community Center. For more information, contact Gloria Lowe at (918) 299-7511 or Doris Roanhorse at (918) 758-2710.

CREEK CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCING NEW CREEK CITIZEN SERVICE!

The Muscogee Nation News will be offering a new classifieds page for all Muscogee Creek Citizens. All classified ads will be free to place on this page. Space will be limited and offered on a first come-first serve basis. This services will begin in the MNN March 2005 issue. To place your ad please contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department at 918-732-7643.

Help wanted, houses for lease-rent or sale, Jewellery, Farm & Garden, Electronics, Transportation, Pets, Miscellaneous, Clothes, Traditional Items & Services, Giveaways and more!

Tribal citizens participate in the gift of peace and no war

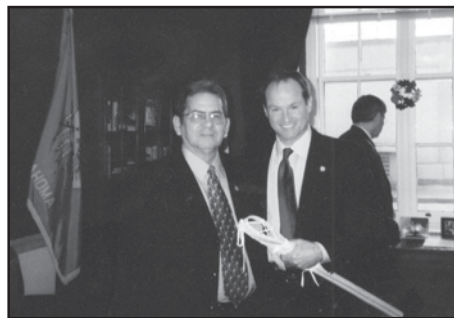
NASHVILLE, TENN. — In gifting protocol, many times a blanket or quilt was given between the European people and the American Indian people. The gift of peace and no warfare given to Lord Alderdice was a quilt made by Melba Checote Eads of the Native American Gatherers' Fellowship. This gift and others were given to Lord Alderdice and the Irish delegation during his trip to visit the Indians of Tennessee on January 25. In turn the Irish delegation gave lovely gifts of Irish linen and silver charms to the program committee.

Tribal heads from historical Tribes of the state came and sent honored guests to welcome Lord Alderdice to the country. Among the honored tribal heads was Principal Chief Smith of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Principal Chief Ellis of the Great Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma sent

his daughter, Sandra Ellis, and Mississippi Choctaws Honorable Tribal Council members Gerald Stoliby, Haywood Bell and Beasley Denson.

David Teat, President of the Advisory Council, read the proposed resolution for the state of Tennessee to recognize the Historical Tribes from the Ancient Mound Builders to the Removed Indian peoples of Tennessee. An opening prayer was given by Rev. Barnoskee of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a word was given by Lay Speaker Melba Checote and Rev. Don Washington of the Great Muscogee Nation.

A program followed with the spirit of gifting and good will along with dancing, drumming, flute music and tribal singers from the Mississippi Choctaws of Ripley, Tennessee and the Muscogee Creek singers from Oklahoma.



Pictured above is Chief Ellis and Congressman John Sullivan.

Emerging Leaders Program

The Indian Health Services Department is committed to affording employment preference to American Indian and Alaska Native candidates who meet the Secretary of the Interior's definition of Indian for appointment to vacancies within the IHS in accordance with established IHS policy as outlined in the Indian Health Manual, Part 7, Chapter 3. The IHS is also committed to achieving full and equal opportunity without discrimination because of race, religion, color, gender, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, and sexual orientation. The IHS has a zero tolerance for sexual harassment or reprisal.

Multiple positions in the following areas are available:

- Administrative
- Information Technology
- Public Health
- Social Sciences

Rotational assignments per career development plan.

All positions start at the GS - 9 level only. College transcripts must be submitted with your application.

Positions have known promotion potential to the GS - 12 level only. Travel and relocation expenses may be paid.

If you are a dynamic, achievement-orientated individual with a Bachelor's Degree (with qualifying work experience) or higher, the Emerging Leaders Program is an opportunity of a lifetime! The Emerging Leaders Program will allow you to explore diverse career fields, involving your educational background within the Indian Health Services (IHS) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), while providing you with the skills and experience for a career with the Federal Government.

This challenging 24 month program provides training in departmental core competencies based on your chosen career path and multiple job rotations to gain familiarity with programs across the IHS and HHS. A chosen mentor will also provide career development advice and support. There are four career paths from which to choose: Administrative, Information Technology, Public Health, and Social Sciences. Please indicate your preference for a career path on your application.

You qualify for a GS - 9 position if you are a U.S. citizen and have a Bachelor's degree with at least two years of qualifying work experience that demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform the duties of this position, or you have a Master's degree or higher level degree from an accredited college or university.

For specific questions regarding the Emerging Leaders Program (at IHS only), contact Ms. Vee Garcia at (301) 594-3146 or e-mail her at: vgarcia@hge.ihs.gov.

A copy of this announcement may be obtained by downloading from the IHS website at: www.ihs.gov.

Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Case Management Specialist CHS

Requirements: Completion of an accredited curriculum in Licensed Practical Nursing and a minimum of one year of experience.

Cook's Aid - Sapulpa (part-time)

Requirements: High School Diploma and one year related work experience. Incumbent must possess a valid food handler's permit and a valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

Pharmacy Clerk - Okmulgee

1 permanent, 1 temporary

Requirements: High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of training or a program in Health Information, Medical Office Technology or related field would benefit incumbent. Job experience in a medical setting and some knowledge of medical terms will benefit incumbent. Incumbent must possess a current Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

Collection Specialist (temporary)

Requirements: High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. An Associates Degree in accounting or a related business field is preferred. A minimum of three years of relevant experience work is required for non-degree applicants. Degreed applicants should have at least one year relevant work experience.

Patient Registration Clerk - (temporary) 4 positions

Sapulpa, Eufaula, Okemah, and Okmulgee

Requirements: High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of a program or training in Medical Office Terminology or related field is preferred. A minimum of one year relevant experience is required.

Benefits Clerk:

Requirements: Associates Degree in related field or two years relevant experience in a related field or an equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Incumbent must possess a current Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

Native American Job Fair

The Native American Times newspaper and the Native American employment and Training Center, both located in Tulsa, are joining forces to co-host the Native American Job Fair 2005. It will be held at the Tulsa Sheraton Hotel from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Febru-

ary 25.

For more information please call 918-438-6548 or visit www.nativetimes.com/jobfair on the internet.

Personnel

Housing Secretary

Requirements: Associates Degree or technical training in secretarial field with excellent computer skills. Associates Degree with three or more years experience in secretarial field with computer operation and public relations is preferred. Must possess a valid Oklahoma State Driver's License.

Inspector for Housing Division

Requirements: Associates Degree with one to three years of experience in residential construction; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Three to four years experience would be preferred. Must possess a valid Oklahoma State Driver's License.

Teacher's Aide (3 Positions)

Okmulgee Head Start, Haskell Head Start, and Tulsa Child Care:

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Must have knowledge and experience with Indian interpersonal relationships, previous experience in Early Childhood or Child Development in dealing with children. CDA or Associates Degree in Early Childhood preferred. Must submit to and pass all necessary drug tests and background checks.

Bus Driver / Maintenance:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Checotah Head Start.

Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must obtain an Oklahoma Bus Drivers Certificate, CDL, CPR, and First Aide Certificate. Must possess a valid drivers license and good driving record. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Trade & Commerce

Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for the following:

Travel Plaza - Okmulgee

Travel Plaza - Muskogee

Muscogee Document Imaging

Farm Authority

For more information on employment opportunities at Trade & Commerce please contact Alexis at 918-732-7764.

These jobs have an Indian Preference.

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact call 732-7637 for information on rates or to place your ad.



STATE OF THE NATION January 29, 2005

I have a copy of last years State of the Nation Address that I gave a year ago this week.

The Administration had twenty projects that we announced that we were going to try to do, so far we have either completed or in the process of completing twenty of those projects. I'll go through to some of the completed projects.

- Commodity/Food Distribution, dedicated in March 2004. Opened.
- The biggest project is the Coweta Health Clinic. Should be finished late fall of this year
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation to have their own construction company. We do. Began doing \$5 million renovation on Tulsa Casino, using tribal employees.
- Imaging Company. The Trade & Commerce's Muscogee Document Imaging Company moved into commodity building and is successful with all new employees.
- The tribal farm that sat idle for 12 years now has over 400 acres of alfalfa. We have new tractors, equipment and fencing. We have been successful this first year.
- New Resolution for Tribal University with Board of Regents to be completed today.
- A transportation system throughout the Creek Nation. It has been approved and we will start buying buses to transport Creeks nationwide.
- Identification time-card system was completed in three months.
- New complex face lift; landscape and beautification. That has been completed.
- A 30 feet sign on the highway to let people know we're here. It has been completed.
- The Elder/Senior Services position was filled with Jackson Barnett.
- The Gaming compact is still on hold.
- Elderly Housing Units that were under construction last year are almost filled to capacity.
- I requested the position of Housing Director to be



filled within 90 days. A new housing director is in place.

- We have established a Security Guard position with a full-blood, fluent in our language to greet, assist, guide and direct our citizens.

- Established a grant writing Department for Education. Our Creek Nation in very good shape in January 2005.

We are approximately \$30 million wealthier from one year ago today. One year ago, we had approximately \$50 million as of this week we have over \$70 million, all as a result of Gaming. Forty percent of our Gaming revenue goes into our permanent fund.

We have a Gaming compact coming up, one of the things I'm proposing this year. Of the twenty-two communities, twelve have very profitable gaming enterprises. Those communities would include; Bristow, Checotah, Duck Creek, Eufaula, Glenpool, Holdenville, Koweta, Muskogee, Okemah, Okmulgee, Twin Hills and Wetumka.

Some of the communities of the twenty two have no profitable enterprises, which include Cromwell, Dewar, Dustin, Kellyville, Paden, Sapulpa, Tulsa, Weleetka, Wilson and Yardeka.

I would like to recommend taking possibly two percent of our gaming revenue be given to the communities. Have all communities come in with a budget, spread this gaming revenue among all communities small ones and large ones. Give all of our people the chance to share in this revenue through community operations. This could be paid in budget that is presented to us every month. I see so many communities that have no revenue. They have no jobs for their people they can't provide assistance, like driveways fixed. This would solve that problem.

Tulsa casino is under construction. The actual ground breaking will be in August or September, possibly sooner. A special meeting has been scheduled to expedite the date.

We purchased the Fountainhead Lodge lien. We need to have a sheriff sale to recoup our money or try to repair it. We have an engineering firm that has estimated it would take \$15 million to fix it. I don't see how we could possibly do something like that. I'm going to request a second opinion from a second engineering company.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation purchased 17-acres of land across the road from our casino on Riverside Drive, the most expensive land in Tulsa, as far as commercial development.

There will be a bill coming to establish banking, high profile office buildings and five star restaurants on that site.

In the paper a couple of weeks ago, the Chickasaw Nation opened a Bank 2 in Oklahoma City. They also opened a branch in Tulsa. Sometime this year they plan to open six more branches in Tulsa. They are the number one bank to furnish loans to minorities, number two in the United States. I don't think its right to sit back and let another nation come in boundaries and take our business. We need to act.

Just two weeks ago, I was contacted by another company wanting to sell us twelve acres at 181st and Peoria, directly across the river from our casino. We haven't done any checking on that but Vision 2025 Tulsa is going to establish low water dams up and down the Arkansas River. The first will be at 91st which will back up the water to our casino to provide a lake effect. We talked about water taxis. The west side of the river is developing quickly with the Aquarium.

One important thing we've been negotiating with the City of Okmulgee is for a new sewer line. We finally came to an agreement and we will have to appropriate funds to help the city of Okmulgee. They granted us permission to tap into and run a 12-inch sewer line from the refinery site to our omni-plex between the rodeo grounds and softball fields, across the junk yard road to our 40-acres and end up at the 200-acre pecan grove for future development. We are in the process of developing our 40-acre development.

Our Language programs, we have several out there, are very important to Indian tribes. One of the first things they look at is the language to be federally recognized. In January 2004, I vetoed a bill for a Language Institute, but it was over rode by National Council. Today not one single dollar of that \$337,000 has been spent. We are taking action on that if we have to substitute a bill to utilize it. We are taking action to do that.

One important thing is the Creek Council House Museum in downtown Okmulgee. We are working to take it back, even if we have to buy it back. We need our Creek

Council House back, it is one of our biggest projects that we are after this year. We may complete it this year.

For our education, the post graduate student, there is a proposal for \$500 to \$1000. Education is the most important thing that we have. Our Tribal College is in operation. The Board of Regents last vacancy will be hopefully be completed today. We plan to be accredited in two years.

There is a vacancy on the National Indian College Board. We were notified that the White house is ready to consider a Muscogee Creek for the vacancy. I will be submitting my nomination next week. It takes a Presidential citation for that position.

Virginia Thomas has been president for many years of the National Advisory Council of Education. Last year, President Bush appointed Virginia Thomas (JOM Manager) and Greg Anderson (Eufaula Dormitory) to the National Council Board of Directors. In the United States, out of thirteen members nationwide, two of them are Muscogee Creek citizens. I think that's great. OSU nursing students began classes January 5, the National Council appropriated the funding for them last year.

The Cultural Preservation program is expanding and is involved in a language program. A GPS system is in place. They are applying for a National Park service grant.

Eufaula Dormitory buses students home every weekend. It's a experimental project. It has been working good for kids on weekends to spend time with their parents.

Second Chief and I, and the other four (of the Five civilized) Tribal Chiefs, will be attending Congressional Committee meetings next week in regard to issues of Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Education, Indian Health Services, Indian Roads and Reservations Programs to begin lobbying for more funding for these programs. With all five tribes, over 450,000 tribal members that we represent, we should get their attention.

We met with the MIS systems. The communities should be hooked up in March and ready to operate and see what programs can help them. They will eventually be able to watch council meetings from their community centers. A lot of surplus computers for the communities are available. If you know of any communities that need them, have them contact the tribe.

The Housing fund is \$17.6 million. The Housing Authority is now under the tribe. The housing state board is in place and the new housing director has asked to do a housing plan that will spend an extra \$10 million. I wouldn't been disappointed if he spent \$20 million. I also told him if he needs to hire 30 people, hire them, improve, and expand.

I have a bill next month to remove the cap of \$10,000.00 which has been in effect for several years, and raise the amount to \$100,000.00.

Meanwhile construction companies move on to

other projects. The Housing Authority needs to consider the need for authority to sign a contract if we have to rehab 8 homes at \$10,000.00 each that needs to be signed the next day. Council needs to consider the need of the contract to be signed and begin work the next day, is what we will be asking for.

We have a new Health Director, Delbert Nutter. I hear he is an expert in third party collections. We need to collect a lot to improve our Health system. We need to direct our attention on the Wetumka Hospital. We've been debating for two years on whether to buy it or not? I will ask to increase funding from Dr. Grimm for our Okemah hospital.

We have a Veterans Affairs Office now that's very busy. I didn't realize the great need we had for our veterans. Ken Davis is the Veterans Affairs Officer. Every day he has another needy veteran that needs to go the VA hospital in Muskogee or Oklahoma City. I'll give you an example. We had an employee who was hurt on the job, had no income and for some reason Worker's Comp didn't assist him. He didn't know what he was going to do, but he was a veteran. Ken went and got him, took him to his office, got his information, went to VA in Muskogee, and within two weeks he was receiving benefits. Last year he had over 48 citizens receive benefits that otherwise did not know they had it coming.

In the Elders/Senior Services office, Jackson Barnett stresses the language. He went before the National Council to purchase two vans to help transport elders.

A totally new project that we have is the Re-Integration program. We have a lot of people who have been incarcerated with no place to go and no one to assist them. Our Second Chief Alfred Berryhill is heading up that program. It is in the start up administration. I've changed the policy to allow felons to apply at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I had young a man come to me with a college degree, a full-blood Creek from Okemah. He said he had done some bad things when he was younger, that was twenty years ago. He said he has paid his debt to society, worked his way through college, and he can't even get a job with his own tribe. We are correcting that so that some of our people can come back, as long as it was just drugs or alcohol related.

We are creating a Tourism and Recreation department. We have plans to build a multipurpose building at the omni plex with a junior college type basketball gym and a fitness center, maybe next year an Olympic size pool.

Our annual Rodeo and Festival needs to be promoted. Tourism and Recreation will control all of this and make this a full time business. I'm creating a new program for the festival this year and in the process of forming a committee. Most all tribes honor their elder and famous people in their tribe. I thought it was time we did. I'm creating the Muscogee Nation Living Legends ceremony. Cherokees and other tribes call theirs

National Treasures. We've got a lot of people that have dedicated their lives working for the tribe and the Nation. It is time we recognize these individuals before they pass on.

Head Start will have a new building just east of the Mound building. Office of the Attorney General and Lighthorse's new building will be out there in that area as well. We need an investigator in the office of Public Gaming. Our gaming will be growing and we need the staff.

Our Industrial Park is now under construction. With the Transit System you will be seeing new buses in a couple of months. They will be transporting citizens around the Creek Nation. We'll be around go to Holdenville, Bristow, Eufaula, and Muskogee, and all points in between and come back to the complex. One day we will have a bus that connects to a Tulsa route so that those who work in Tulsa can connect at that point.

Henryetta is creating a new museum one mile south of I-40, a coal miners museum I understand. I don't know how Senator Shurden got permission from Oklahoma Transportation to put in an interchange. We've been offered acres of land and to get an interchange if we build a road for them. That is in the works.

Elderly nutrition will be in the new building on March 1. If you get a chance, go by and look at it. It has an examination room for the CHR staff.

Our Nation does have an impact in this area. Our MCN's annual payroll is \$30 million in this area. Our people pay a lot of taxes. Our employees have paid \$2.7 million in Federal taxes, \$1.2 million in Oklahoma state taxes, \$2.7 million in Social Security, and \$701,000 in Medicare. We now have 2,426 tribal employees

I just found out last night another project for this year. Our Lighthorse vehicles are filling up with gas at the Okmulgee Kum & Go. A certain officer said he fills up at least three times a week. That's \$90 to \$100 per week that they are spending on fuel. That's \$81,000 per year that we are not spending at our travel plaza, for all we know this Kum & Go may be a One Nation company. We have over 300 vehicles in Muscogee (Creek) Nation and we all need to use our own businesses.

We have some Tobacco compacts coming up. I spent Wednesday with Montie Deer, Mr. Alexander and others, going over the tobacco compact in Oklahoma City. They sent us a new compact yesterday and we were not satisfied. It is not acceptable at all. They are not giving us the same deal as the Cherokees and Osages. They are not treating us on the same level, it is not acceptable to us at all. Whatever we need to do to be treated fairly we will do. If we have to file an injunction, we will, in order to get the same treatment as the other tribes. We are going to insist that we be treated as well as the other tribes are.

I appreciate everyone being here and this opportunity to address the citizens and the Council. Mvto!

Letters

continued from page 2

porting us while our son Lance was sick. He is the son of Tim and Joyce Thompson of Yardeka.

We would like to thank the Fish Pond Members and friends for donations. Also Alice Mack and Family.

Mvto,
Thompson and Dee family, Yardeka

Church appreciates donation

Editor:

Creek Chapel Methodist Church would like to thank the National Council for the \$250 donation for Christmas.

Leah Jack, Hanna
Sunday School Superintendent

Second

continued from page 3

“Montezuma reigned then in Mexico; seeing that it was impossible to arrest the progress of the Spaniards. He called to his assistance the people which were neighbors to his states. The nation of the Moskoquis, known now under the name of Creeks, who formed a separate republic in the northwestern part of Mexico, and who had numerous warriors, offered him assistance, formidable for any enemy other than a disciplined army, such as that of the Spaniards commanded by Fernan-Cortez.”

“The courage of this warlike people resulted, then, only in its more prompt destruction, and was not able to save Montezuma, who lost his life and his empire, which was almost entirely depopulated. After the death of Montezuma an many other chiefs, the Moskoquis, considerably weakened by this terrible war, which they were no longer in a condition to maintain, determined to abandon a country which offered them in exchange for their past happiness only the most terrible slavery, to search for one which would secure them the abundance and peace of which the Spaniards had just deprived them.”

“They directed their march toward the north, and ascended in fifteen days as far as the source of Red River, that is to say a distance of about a hundred leagues. This river throws its waters into the northern part of America, across immense prairies, a fact which fixed their determination to follow its course. They traveled therefore eight days in this direction through a plain brilliant with the most beautiful flowers, and covered with wild animals, which offered them all the resources necessary for their existence. This country would have attracted them to settle in it for all time on account of its richness in every respect; but, fearing still for their safety, in country which did not offer them any natural defense, they continued their journey. In the different excursions which they mad along this river, they did not discover any other, not even a stream joining it; but they often found lakes and ponds, many of which had salt water; these were generally covered with aquatic birds of all kinds, notably such are met along the shore of the ocean. The prairies were alive with partridges, hares, rabbits, turkeys and other animals. There are such great quantities of this sort of game in these countries, that, when it is

pursued from different points at the same time, and is forced to flee, the air is obscured and the land covered with it.”

“After having traveled thus for many days they found some groves where they made a halt. The young warriors were sent in different directions by the old men to examine the face of the country. At the end of a month they returned announcing that they had discovered a forest on the edges of which, and at the same time along Red River, were fine subterranean dwellings. The entire nation set out; when they arrived near these caves, they discovered that they had been dug by bison, or wild oxen, and other animals who inhabited them because the earth there was a little salty.”

“The Moskoquis found in this country the peace and quiet which they needed in order to repair the considerable losses which they had suffered in the Mexican wars. The colony having brought along a little corn which was left to it, it was planted immediately in order to assure them a means of subsistence. As they lacked the necessary utensils with which to make a settlement they made use of sharp stones, instead of axes, to cut and sharpen sticks of wood which they afterward hardened in the fire and used in cultivating the ground.”

“When the Moskoquis had thus performed the first labors connected with their new settlement, they marked out a field, as large as was necessary for the common needs of the colony, and they surrounded it with old pieces of wood and stakes planted in the earth, in order to guard against the incursions of bison and other wild animals, which are very fond of corn. They then allotted to the families the ground contained in this enclosure, and sowed it for their sustenance. The young people of both sexes worked the ground together while the old men smoked their pipes. In this manner they lived for many years, enjoying perfect tranquility, living by hunting and fishing, and on the products of their land, and regretting little their separation from the country where they had suffered so much. They would no doubt have remained there permanently if the unhappy fortune which seemed to pursue them had not compelled them to undertake a second migration.”

“They were discovered by the Albamos or Alibamons, who killed many of their people. Then the old men, the natural chiefs of the nation, called together the young warriors, and sent them on the trail of the murderers, but without success, because there was no unity in their operations, and they lacked a common chief; they then felt the necessity of selecting one. The old men of the nation assembled and chose the one among them who had rendered the greatest services to the fatherland, and they named him their Tastanegy or grand war chief”

“The Moskoquis are very warlike and are not cast down by defeat; the day after an unsuccessful battle, they march to meet the enemy as courageously as before. It was after this arrangement that they resolved to continue their course toward the northwest. After having marched in this direction for some time, and crossed immense plains, they stopped in a little forest on the banks of the Missouri. TO BE CONTINUED.

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES
MUSCOGEE CONFEDERACY
1000's OF YEARS AGO

By: Patrick E. Moore

1000's of years ago Great Pyramids were the center-

pieces of many Muscogee Confederacy towns in southeastern North America. These towns were centers of commerce, culture and religion, involving visitors and traders from as far away as the Yucatan Peninsula in Central America and possibly even the Amazon Basin in South America.

Pyramid towns were located near rivers and streams, sometimes a town's pyramids covered as large an area as 20 acres and many pyramids were considerably larger in base and height than the Great Pyramids of Egypt. Some of these ancient towns covered over 300 acres.

4,000 BC Native Americans in the southeastern areas of North America began to concentrate in towns around these pyramids and many towns grew to a population of in excess of 10,000 persons. These Great Pyramid Towns were the largest and richest culture centers north of Central and South America and far exceeded any European settlements in the development of their local and national governments, culture and society.

Muscogee Confederacy trade area extended from the Great Lakes in the north to the Gulf of Mexico, Central America and South America in the south, the Great Plains in the west and the Atlantic seaboard in the east. Rivers and streams that criss-crossed the landscape provided for quick and easy transportation and provided valuable access to both the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. On any given day literally hundreds of canoes would be in the process of coming and going loaded with trade goods. The only activity to take precedent over commerce would be a scheduled festival, religious ceremony or funeral.

Traders or visitors approaching a pyramid town would first observe smoke from fires residents tended, this smoke helped

drive
o f f
m o s -
quitoes,
t h e
traveler
would
t h e n
s e e
t h o u -



sands of thatch roofed houses and hear the sounds and commotion of the town. Then they would observe farmers in the fields, craftsmen and fishermen at their tasks and finally the Great Pyramid. The Great Pyramid was often surrounded by several smaller pyramids topped with buildings. The smaller pyramids were probably used as temples for worship and homes for the ruling class. Access to these temples was forbidden to all but the priests, who were in charge of the sacred fires and death was the punishment for allowing a fire to go out.

Pyramid towns had a central plaza several acres in size, contained a playing field or court used for many native games such as chunky, stickball and foot racing. Each spring and fall the central plaza would be the scene of athletic contests, dancing and religious events. Numerous ceremonies and festivals were conducted in and around this plaza during the

please see **MOORE...**, page 23

Oklahoma Indian Evangelism Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — The theme is “The Gathering of Nations for Spiritual Awakening”. The purpose of the “Gathering” is Native American believers seeking God. For many years Indian Christians have sought revival and Spiritual Awakening. All Christian men and women who have a desire to see Spiritual Awakening among the Native Nations are invited to come and be a part of this “Once-in-a-life-time-experience”.

The goal is to have 100 churches in simultaneous revival on March 6 thru 9. The leaders for simultaneous revivals will be the Pastors, Evangelists and Musicians that attend the Gathering event. Each participating church will make its revival arrangements.

The conference workshops include: Developing Pastoral Skills; Native Women in Ministry; Leading Native American Youth; Understanding Children; Spiritual Awakening and the Church; Partnering with Native American Ministries; Understanding Native Americans; New Methods in Reaching Native Americans; and Native American Religion.

The day conference speakers include: Jimmy Ander-

son; Russell Begaye; Mark Custalow; Jerry Wortman; and Jonathan Wilson.

The conferences will be held on March 3rd through March 4th. Conferences will be from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

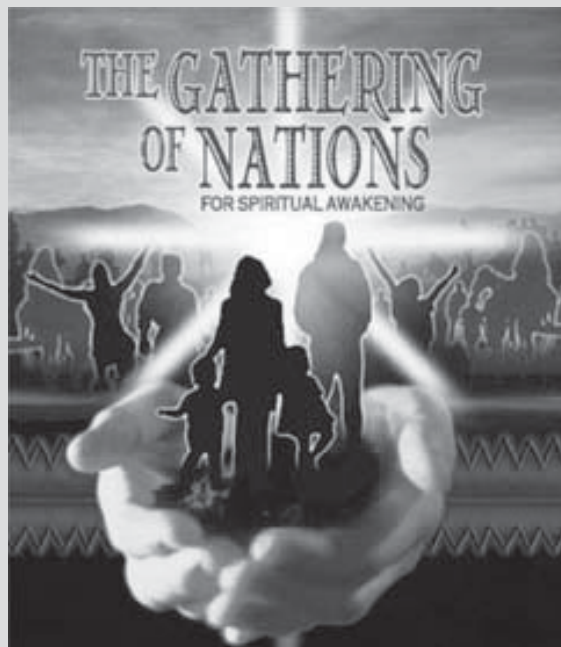
They are to be held at Glorieta Baptist Church. The church is located at 7308 South Western in Oklahoma City and the phone number is (405) 632-3365.

Dr. Henry Blackaby, author of “Experiencing God”, will be speaking nightly on March 2 through March 4 at Southern Hills Baptist Church from 6:30 p.m to 9 p.m. The Conference Worship Leader will be Ted Burden of Branson, Missouri.

Dr. Henry Blackaby and Dr. Greg Frizzell will be speaking at Southern Hills Baptist Church on March 5 from 9 a.m. to noon. The church is located at 8601 S. Pennsylvania in Oklahoma City.

You may contact Dr. Emerson Falls at

Emersonfalls@hotmail.com or Carla Parnacher at cpam4him@yahoo.com for more information. There is also information about the conference and an on-line preregistration form on the Oklahoma Indian Baptist site at <http://www.okindiansbc.org>.



Bible Study Material available online

In the late 1980's, the Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention contracted with Southern Baptist Native American leaders to write and edit a Native American Bible Study curriculum for adults. The late Helen Begaye was chosen to edit and oversee this project. God had uniquely gifted Helen for this task, and the result was six years of Bible study material written by Native American writers, and edited by Helen. The curriculum was published by the Sunday School Board from 1988 until 1993 when it was discontinued. The material was originally published as dated literature; that is, a specific lesson for a specific date.



As a result of recent agreements between LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board, they have been given electronic access to the priceless resource that has been made available at no charge to Native congregations. These lessons are now available for you to view online and to print for use in your church setting. The lessons may even be copied and used as handouts. Please note, however, that this material is still under copyright and may not be used for resale.

The lessons will be posted one quarter at a time and will maintain the maximum number of lessons permissible by the web host. The material will be grouped into units that have a common theme. Unit descriptions will be provided and the corresponding lessons will be listed under each unit. Although the lessons have dates that correspond to them, do not feel limited to use the lesson only on or near the date. The dates correspond only to the original publication period. Feel free to use the material as it fits your schedule.

You will find that the lessons include both illustrations and applications that are written uniquely from a Native perspective. You will also find that the lessons are biblically sound. Scripture portions are printed within the lessons making it easier for students to participate and follow along. The translations used at the time of publishing were the King James Version and the Revised Standard Version. Please feel free to use other translations if you prefer.

It is North American Mission Board (NAMB) Ministries prayer that this material be used to aid Native churches toward greater health and reproduction. It is also the prayer that the material could be used to facilitate Native church planting movements that would penetrate every Native setting in North America.

There are 22 units and 104 lessons are available on the NAMB ministries website. The downloadable Native Bible Study & Sunday School Materials are available in PDF format at: www.nambnativeministries.org/Study/biblestudy.html.

Church Events

Men's Ministry Rally

MUSKOGEE — A Men's Ministry Rally will be held at Butler Creek Indian Baptist Church on February 27 at 6:30 p.m.

“Live out Loud” Conference 2005

SHAWNEE — “Live out Loud” is the Native American Youth & Young Adult Conference that will be held March 11 thru 12 at the Oklahoma Baptist University. The University is located at 500 West University. All Youth Groups are welcome (in state and out of state).

The goal of the conference is to have 300 plus youth and young adults attend. The keynote speaker will be Brother Vern Charette of Columbus, Mississippi. The praise & worship team consists of Bros. Gabriel and Michael Ball with Courtney See of McLoud.

Beginning on March 11, a joint worship service will start at 7 p.m. On March 12, the schedule begins with the joint general session at 8:30 a.m.; breakout sessions from 9 a.m until 10:45 a.m.; joint worship service will follow at 11 a.m; lunch at noon; recreation time will be from 2 until 4:30 p.m; burger and hot dog cookout at 5 p.m; and with joint worship service at 7 p.m.

Register at the door for \$7. You can mail your attendee list with check or money order payable to: First Indian Moore, 2610 S. Broadway, Moore OK, 73160.

For more information on the conference and hotels in the area: contact Delena Deer at (405) 816-8313 or e-mail at deere_3848@yahoo.com; Willie or Sue Fish at (405) 321-4898 or e-mail at pashofa@sbcglobal.net; or Donna Bear at (405) 912-5394.

Youth Revival

CALVIN — A Youth Revival will be held at Tookparfka Baptist Church on March 16-18 beginning at 7 p.m.

The revival will include congregational singing, devotions held by youth groups from local churches, great fellowship afterwards and most of all God's message from Reverend Edward Bear, Pastor of the First Indian Church in Holdenville.

For more information contact Pastor Rev. Joe W. Bruner at 405-379-7490 or Charlie Franks at 405-379-5546.

Family Gathering

OKEMAH — High Spring Baptist Church is having a Church Family Gathering on “Easter Weekend”, March 25 thru 27, and are inviting past and present members, or descendents to come and join us during this time.

For more information you may contact Kathy Hamilton at (918) 756-2561, Christine Roberts at (918) 623-2833 or Mary Lee Severs Lee at (918) 623-4639.

COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING	11,987.00	0.00	11,208.00	779.00
GAMING REVOLVING	58,327.00	0.00	26,932.00	31,395.00
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	10,424.00	0.00	9,130.00	1,294.00
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	5,900.00	0.00	3,732.00	2,168.00
LIGHT HORSE PROGRAM INCOME	0.00	0.00	(60.00)	60.00
TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME:	1,071,290.00	55.00	465,813.00	605,422.00
DEPT OF INTERIOR:				
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	8,132,104.00	135,555.00	6,050,609.00	1,945,940.00
DOHENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP	7,576.00	0.00	0.00	7,576.00
EUFAULADORM'00	126,721.00	0.00	126,721.00	0.00
EUFAULADORM'01	168,882.00	0.00	120,820.00	48,062.00
TRANSPORTATION IMPROV'01	25,520.00	0.00	25,520.00	0.00
LAMAR ROAD	220.00	0.00	187.00	33.00
KELLYVILLE ROAD	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
LITTLE CUSSETH CHURCH ROAD	76,910.00	0.00	12,612.00	64,298.00
OKEMAH SCHOOL ROAD	57,873.00	20,066.00	6,158.00	31,649.00
THE WARLE CHURCH ROAD	109,126.00	0.00	80,117.00	29,009.00
PORTER ROAD	117,660.00	0.00	104,967.00	12,693.00
OLD BIXBY ROAD	44,441.00	0.00	26,120.00	18,321.00
SALEM ROAD	91,718.00	2,451.00	12,866.00	76,401.00
SKELLY/HASKELL ROAD	601,548.00	23,387.00	577,613.00	548.00
METHODIST CHURCH ROAD	2,621.00	0.00	0.00	2,621.00
HECTORVILLE ROAD	1,283,253.00	98,952.00	30,151.00	1,154,150.00
SUMMIT SOUTH ROAD	194,153.00	192,277.00	1,621.00	255.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '02	11,584.00	0.00	11,584.00	0.00
EUFAULADORM'02	665,518.00	0.00	399,861.00	265,657.00
JOMEARLY CHILDHOOD '03	9,499.00	0.00	3,005.00	6,494.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '03	435,487.00	0.00	425,349.00	10,138.00
EUFAULADORM'03	1,395,255.00	500.00	677,890.00	716,865.00
OAKDALE SCHOOL BLDG	665.00	0.00	665.00	0.00
McINTOSH FENCING	577.00	0.00	0.00	577.00
CALVIN NORTH ROAD	1,729,221.00	1,443,473.00	275,763.00	9,985.00
STIDHAM ROAD	443,500.00	0.00	442,306.00	1,194.00
ARBOKA ROAD	1,595,312.00	1,157,483.00	427,169.00	10,660.00
JOMEARLY CHILDHOOD '04	13,440.00	4,020.00	1,028.00	8,392.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '04	958,462.00	3,315.00	511,381.00	443,766.00
EUFAULADROM'04	748,100.00	0.00	0.00	748,100.00
TITLE PLANT	30,000.00	0.00	11,114.00	18,886.00
AID TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENT	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	2,996,619.00	247,417.00	339,380.00	2,409,822.00
EUFAULADORM'99	25,184.00	0.00	5,184.00	20,000.00
MONTEZUMA PROJECT	41,404.00	0.00	2,100.00	39,304.00
TOTAL DEPT OF INTERIOR:	22,170,153.00	3,328,896.00	10,709,861.00	8,131,396.00
DEPT OF JUSTICE:				
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE	49,062.00	0.00	45,336.00	3,726.00
DRUG COURT	45,862.00	0.00	32,466.00	13,396.00
TRIBAL RESOURCES COPS	87,239.00	0.00	86,712.00	527.00
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	85,513.00	0.00	22,218.00	63,295.00
TOTAL DEPT OF JUSTICE:	267,676.00	0.00	186,732.00	80,944.00
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:				
GAP	110,000.00	0.00	31,775.00	78,225.00
TOTAL EPA:	110,000.00	0.00	31,775.00	78,225.00
ENTERPRISE FUND:				
MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	171,600.00	0.00	161,585.00	10,015.00
BIABLDG RESERVE	9,200.00	0.00	1,880.00	7,320.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	1,603,400.00	15.00	387,257.00	1,216,128.00
COWETA CLINIC	2,041,431.00	1,341,831.00	399,600.00	300,000.00
IHS OFFICE BUILDING	22,318.00	0.00	15,287.00	7,031.00
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM	9,483.00	0.00	16,704.00	(7,221.00)
ROAD EQUIPMENT POOL	276,289.00	0.00	201,751.00	74,538.00
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND:	4,133,721.00	1,341,846.00	1,184,064.00	1,607,811.00
TRUST & AGENCY FUND:				
C.N. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	0.00	0.00	12,226.00	(12,226.00)
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL TRUST & AGENCY FUND:	0.00	0.00	12,226.00	(12,226.00)
INTERNAL SERVICE:				
ROAD FORCE ACCOUNT	812,324.00	4,013.00	470,140.00	338,171.00
TRIBAL-REAL PROP & FAC.	1,422,400.00	0.00	1,163,993.00	258,407.00
TRIBAL-PROPERTY & SUPPLY	89,910.00	0.00	105,120.00	(15,210.00)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	234,523.00	5,336.00	130,241.00	98,946.00
SELF-INSURED HLTH FUND	0.00	0.00	3,009,869.00	(3,009,869.00)
TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE FUND:	2,559,157.00	9,349.00	4,879,363.00	(2,329,555.00)
SCHOLARSHIPS:				
C.N. FOUND. SCHOLARSHIP	4,000.00	0.00	5,336.00	(1,336.00)
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND:	4,000.00	0.00	5,336.00	(1,336.00)
TOTALS	119,194,116.00	5,128,768.00	58,108,617.00	55,956,731.00

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Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise offers opportunity to young Muscogee citizens

OKMULGEE – Sandy Lee, 19 and Chase Williams, 20 are two reasons why Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise was created.

“An important part of our charter is to create career opportunities for our Tribal citizens,” said Michael Nalley, Director of MNBE. “Sandy and Chase have both been great hires for our company.” Both young men are technicians in the Fire & Security group at MNBE. “Sandy came to my office about six or seven times looking for a job,” said Nalley. “After his last trip to my office I knew I had to find a place for him in our organization.” “Sandy had a lot of drive, he just needed the opportunity.”

After graduating from Dewar High School Sandy attended Green Country Vo-Tech and received his certification in the A+ Hardware program. Sandy started with MNBE on February 2, 2004. Chase was working at the Creek Nation Tax Commission, when BJ Waggnor, Project Manager, Fire & Security recommended hiring him as a technician.

Chase, a graduate of Henryetta High School, started working for MNBE on February 18, 2004. Besides working for MNBE Chase is a member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. “Chase brings a level of discipline and

maturity that a lot of people his age do not possess,” said Pritchard. “I believe his involvement with the Oklahoma Army National Guard has enhanced those qualities in him.” In February, Chase will be attending a Platoon Leadership School at Ft. Sill, OK.

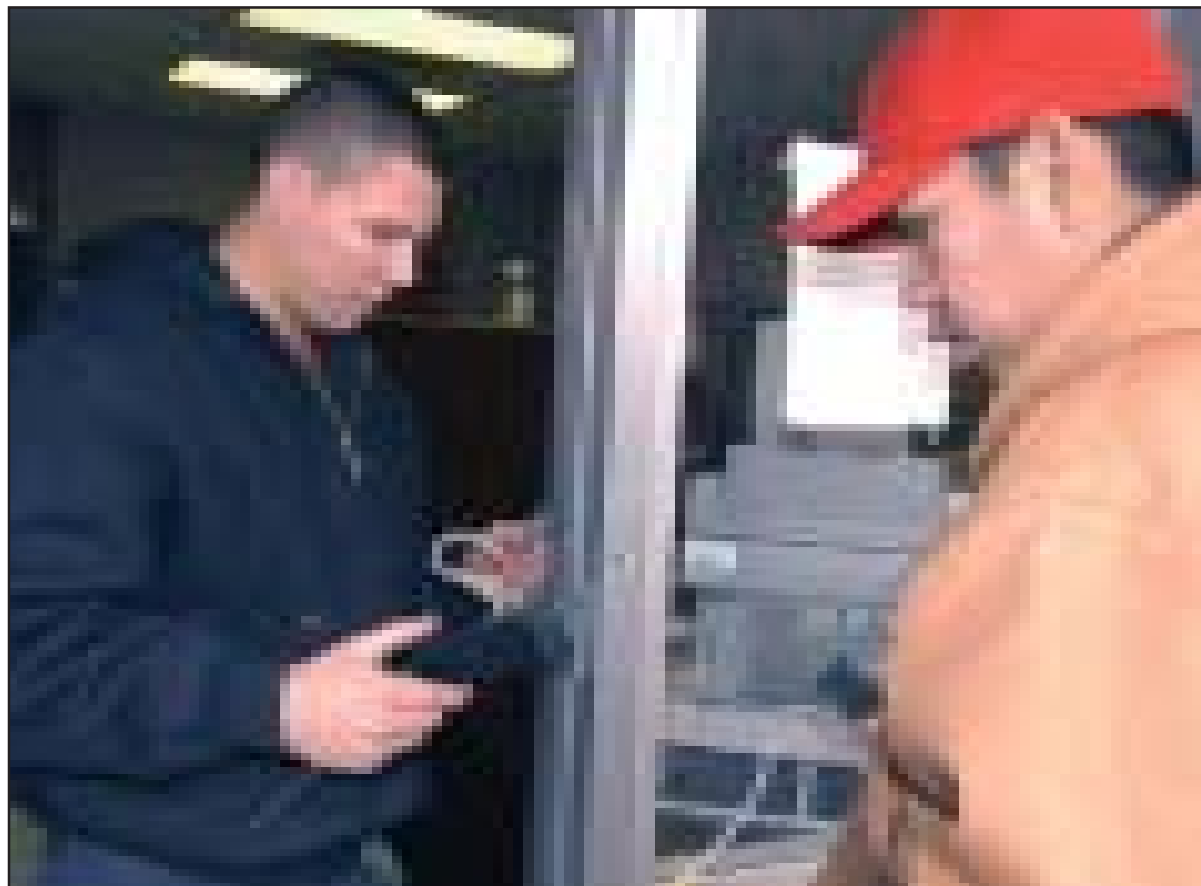
According to John Pritchard, Manager, Technology Services, “Chase and Sandy have been fun to watch because you have an opportunity to take people who may not have the exact skill sets you need but they have the desire and work ethic to want to learn and to be the best at what they do.”

MNBE Technology Services Division is required to be certified in various software and hardware which requires training.

In February both men will be attending DVTEL Training in New Jersey and in March Chase will be attending Softwarehouse Training in Florida. “Chase and Sandy have a bright future at MNBE,” said Nalley. “How far they go is up to them.” Chase is the son of

James Williams of Henryetta and Mary Howard of Okmulgee. His grandmother is Evelyn Quinton of Dewar.

Sandy is the son of Janet Lee of Henryetta and Sidney Lee of the Ryal Community. His grandmother is Lorene Sumka.



MNBE Fire & Security technicians Chase Williams and Sandy Lee preparing to install card access readers for Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees tracking system for Creek Nation Complex.

Trade and Commerce provides assistance to hearing impaired

OKMULGEE — A free CapTel phone is available to you. Ideal for people with some degree of hearing loss, the Caption Telephone (CapTel) works like any other telephone with one important addition: It displays every word the caller says throughout the conversation. CapTel phone users can listen to the caller, and can also read written captions in the CapTel's bright display window.

These phones are free from Sprint and the application process is simple. Your caption telephone still works like a regular voice phone too, so it's easy for everyone to use.



For more information and applications, contact Alexis Crosley at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade and Commerce office at (918) 732-7764.

Processing of these free phone applications is a public service of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Trade and Commerce Authority and is free and open to all enrolled members of a Federally recognized tribe with any amount of hearing loss.

For more information on Federal CapTel or CapTel in your state, visit www.captionedtelephone.com/availability.phtml or call CapTel at 1(888)269-7477 to order your phone.

Mvskoke Creek Uehunecv

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade and Commerce Department are now providing bottled water. Trade and Commerce Warehouse Manager, Eastman Whitlow reports “Spring Water - Mvskoke Creek UEHUNEVCV” Company is doing very well.

These bottles are labeled in blue and feature both the Muscogee



(Creek) Nation Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and the Second Chief Alfred Berryhill's photographs and is properly labeled Mvskoke Creek Uehunecv (water). The water comes in 12 oz or 20 oz bottles, a case of 12 oz bottles cost \$9.00 and a case of 20 oz bottles cost 13.20 per case. This water is available for purchase through the Trade and Commerce Department at 1010 East Eufaula Street. For more information about this water please call Trade and Commerce at 732-7765.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention 5th Annual Youth Camp

WELLING — Swimming, hiking, running, jumping, basketball, mushball, volleyball, tennis and miniature golf are a few of the fun activities at Camp Cvfeknetv this year! The youth will also

learn about the traditions of the Muscogee people and gain leadership skills that they can carry with them through-

out their adult life. Commercial tobacco vs. traditional tobacco will also be on the camp agenda. The youth will focus on making their own video this year.

Camp Cvfeknetv dates are July 11-15, 2005. Youth who are 12 to 18 years of age will

be able to attend this camp with no admission fees! Please have your youth register early, space is limited.

“This is our fifth year to provide a camp



Camp Cvfeknetv 2003 Youth Group Pictures taken at Camp Christian in Chouteau, Oklahoma

for the young people of our communities. We began with just an overnight camp, this year we will have the youth from Monday to Friday. The theme of the camp has been Developing Health Traditional Life-styles. We take a look at the way our ancestors lived, worked, and played, without the

threat of nicotine addiction and the health effects we see from using manufactured tobacco products. The young people at the camp have an opportunity to learn some real life skills to help them resist peer pressure to smoke as well as a sense of well-being knowing our elders still use tobacco in a sacred and traditional way. This non-recreational way of using tobacco is explored and the youth can experience hands on organic tobacco growing from a real expert. In this way we hope our youth learn the respect for a sacred plant and a respect for their bodies.



Pictured above is Jacque Maybe, Melanie Edwards, and Victoria Mills.

To register your child for Camp Cvfeknetv or for more information please contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program at (918)-756-6231.

Diabetes Training Held for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employees

OKMULGEE—The MCN Diabetes Program Staff and Sherry Wofford, a nurse with DaVita Dialysis Center presented “Diabetes in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation” in the Mound Building, January 18. The participants had fun competing in the “MCN Diabetes Challenge Bowl” an electronic Jeopardy game, at the end of the program.

Jennings named Caregiver Program Coordinator

OKMULGEE — The Division of Health of Administration would like to welcome Teresa Jennings. She is the new Native American Caregiver Support Program Coordinator. The Caregiver Support Program was introduced by the Elderly Nutrition Program which has been in place for the past two years. Teresa enjoys working for the Health Division and helping the elderly citizens. To know more about the Caregiver Support Program contact Teresa Jennings at 918-758-2727, Ext. 260



Jennings

Doctor's Note

“February is American Heart Month”

A blockage in the heart's arteries may reduce or completely cut off the blood supply to a portion of the heart. This can cause a blood clot to form and totally stop blood flow in a coronary artery, resulting in a heart attack (also called an acute myocardial infarction or MI).

Irreversible injury to the heart muscle usually occurs if medical help is not received promptly. Unfortunately, it is common for people to dismiss heart attack symptoms.

The American Heart Association and other medical experts say the body likely will send one or more of these warning signals of a heart attack:

- Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest lasting more than a few minutes.
- Pain spreading to the shoulders, neck or arms. The pain may be mild to intense. It may feel like pressure, tightness, burning, or heavy weight. It may be located in the chest, upper abdomen, neck, jaw, or inside the arms or shoulders.
- Chest discomfort with light-headedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

- Anxiety, nervousness and/or cold, sweaty skin.
- Paleness or pallor.
- Increased or irregular heart rate.
- Feeling of impending doom.

Not all of these signs occur in every attack. Sometimes they go away and return. If some occur, get help fast. IF YOU NOTICE ONE OR MORE OF THESE SIGNS IN YOURSELF OR OTHERS, DON'T WAIT. CALL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (9-1-1) RIGHT AWAY! In the event of cardiopulmonary arrest (no breathing or pulse), call 9-1-1 and begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) immediately.

The actual diagnosis of a heart attack must be made by a doctor who has studied the results of several tests.

The doctor may:

- Review the patient's complete medical history.
- Give a physical examination.
- Use an electrocardiogram (or EKG) to discover any abnormalities caused by damage to the heart.
- Use a blood test to detect abnormal levels of certain enzymes in the bloodstream.

Spotlight

“So many of the artists today didn’t get to experience what it was really like to be around the Stompdances and Indian Churches of a long time ago,” said Narcomey.

Creek artist gives back to Sequoyah High School

by Gerald Wofford

We have all heard the term, starving artist, which basically means an artist who is trying to make ends meet and may not be doing so well in his chosen profession.

Jackson Narcomey doesn’t fit the bill of the above mentioned term, but quite the contrary, Narcomey is an artist who works hard at his craft and makes it a point to give back.

Narcomey is an artist who revels in different forms of creations. From watercolor paintings, dabbing in oil portraits and even in bronze sculptures, the Muscogee (Creek) artist is right at home with any style.

Narcomey is also known for his screen printing, using a lot of his work in drawings as the central point for creations on T-shirt designs. Narcomey even sells some of his work in the gift shop that is located in the Creek Nation Capital Complex. The store is operated by the Creek Elders of the Okmulgee Indian Community Center. Narcomey’s shirts can be found in the gift shop with unique prints from the traditional stickball player to more humorous signs like FBI, Wild Onions, or Got Sofke?

One of Narcomey’s work entitled, Proud Warrior, presents a young Native American man who is battle tested and ready. This creation, along with Stickball Player, was especially created to honor Sequoyah High School, Narcomey’s Alma Mater. Narcomey not only made the prints to honor his favorite school, but also made a way for the school to have an educational foundation. Narcomey donated the first printing of these shirts to Sequoyah as a scholarship fund-raiser. Valued at \$1,000 each, the money raised will send a deserving Sequoyah student to college.

He wasn’t sure how the offering would be accepted at first, how the general public would react to such an idea. Certainly other artists who are alumni of the school have given their works, time, or talent to the school as a form of offering. But each artist is different, and looks upon his giving his work as something totally from his heart, and so it was with Narcomey. He knew in his heart it was the right thing. “I always wanted to give something to the school that taught me a lot,” says Narcomey.

Narcomey was already an artist in his soul when he first arrived at the Tahlequah campus, having began drawing in the first grade. He seriously began studying at the all-Indian school. “Sequoyah and all the teachers there certainly helped me a lot,” admits Narcomey, “I’m glad I took the courses that I did.”

He remembers the school as being mainly geared toward Vo-Tech opportunities back in his day. “Sequoyah really prepared you for some type of training or

trade when I was going to school there,” remembers Narcomey. “Half the day you spent in class and the other half of the day you spent in some type of Vo-tech training.” Narcomey also credits Sequoyah Art Instructor Rolley White as being very instrumental in helping him at that time. After school while in his 20’s, Narcomey knew he really wanted to do this for the rest of his life.

He seen how much the school has changed since he was a student there, but

likes how Sequoyah has evolved and transformed itself since then. He also sees how much Native American artist, the younger generation specifically, interprets art today. “There is definitely a new style today,” says Narcomey when comparing older Indian art to the art of modern times. “The new style of today presents art work in today’s modern world. It really displays the two worlds that each of us has to live in. The Indian and the non.”

Narcomey is from the old school way of thinking and says he will always prefer the more established style. He says is glad that he grew up in the older era, and feels that many younger artists today missed out on a very special time.

“So many of the artists today didn’t get to experience what it was really like to be around the Stompdances and the Indian Churches of along time ago,” said Narcomey. “You still get that feeling from the old style. Often you don’t get that feeling from the newer style.”

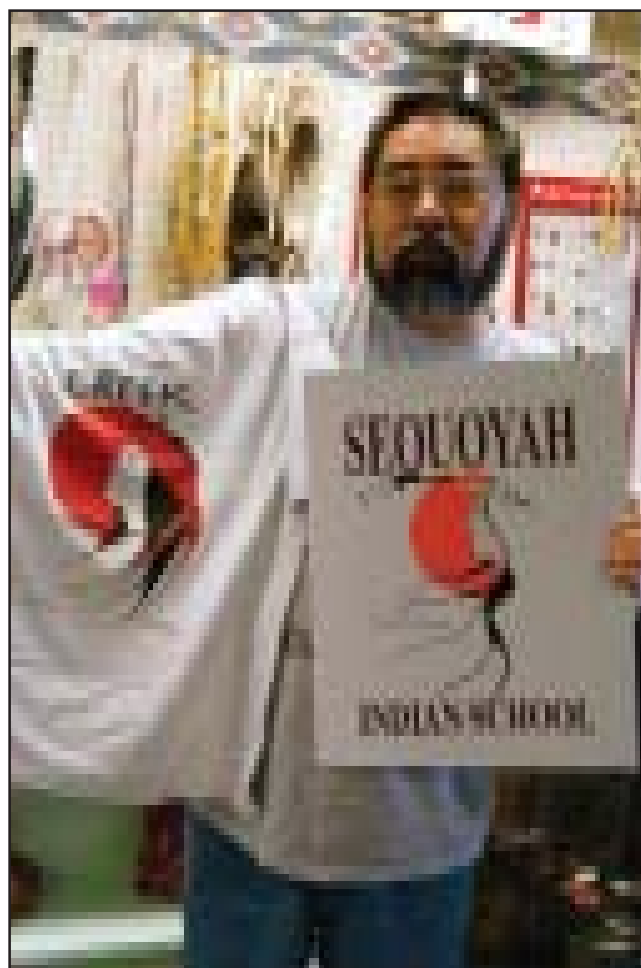
Artists see time and how it changes things, people, and the world. The old style of Indian artists are no longer here. “Artists are so different today,” said Narcomey when touching on the subject of modern Indian artists. “Their work today doesn’t always show the way that Indian people and life was like a long time ago. Maybe because a lot of them didn’t live by going to the Stomp dances or the Sunday church meetings. A lot of it now is just a memory.”

Narcomey is reminiscent about who he calls the great masters of Indian art, artists such as Acee Blue Eagle, Solomon McCombs, and Woody Crumbo.

Narcomey tells that his artwork derives from what he remembers seeing as a young boy. “I remember when all the Indian people would get together and I like to bring that across in my work.”

Narcomey’s work has been appreciated by the non-Indian world as well. He has received awards from for his work by entering contests at Philbrook Museum, the Fall Art Market in Okmulgee and the Red Earth Art Contest in Oklahoma City.

For more information about the t-shirts for the scholarship, call (918) 680-3252.



Creek Artist Jackson Narcomey



Creek Council House Museum

Art Contest

\$\$

STOMP DANCE

RODEO

SPORTS

ELDER/YOUTH

PAGEANT

FESTIVAL

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WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUTH ORIENTED THEMES

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION'S

Silver Anniversary Festival

Harjo nominated for music awards

FLORIDA — Muscogee (Creek) singer and song writer Joy Harjo was recently nominated in three categories at the Native American Music Awards.

The critically acclaimed poet and author of *The Woman Who Fell From The Sky* and *The Good Luck Cat*, was nominated in the following categories: best blues/ jazz album; best female performer; and best songwriter. Harjo currently teaches poetry, Native Culture and Literature at UCLA, but it's music that may cross her over. She's a passionate singer and insightful song writer who powerfully blends reggae, rock, folk, pow-wow and spoken word elements, into her poet visions.

For more information, visit the site for the Native American Music Awards at www.Nammys.com



JOY HARJO

Jamie Coon receives nomination for Single of the Year

OKEMAH — Jamie Coon, a 1997 graduate of Okemah High School, has just received a nomination from the Los Angeles Music Award.

Breathe, taken from her upcoming album Silent Words, was nominated as single of the year. The awards show will be held November 2005 in Hollywood, California.

Coon is also working on new music for an Indian film being shot in Canada. She will be performing March 25, 2005 at the Knitting Factory in Hollywood for the Lebowsky West Fest pre-party.

Proceeds from this show will be donated to Jeff Bridges' charity, End Hunger. For more information about Jamie Coon or where she will be playing next, visit her website at www.jamiecoon.com.



SIDNEY BARNES

WETUMKA — Funeral services for Sidney Barnes were held January 8 at the Williamson Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. J.B. Fish officiating.

He was born January 16, 1948 to Tom and Leila Barnes of Wetumka.

Preceding him in death were: his father; brother, Charles Thomas Barnes; and sisters, Leila and Betty Loretta Barnes.

Survivors include: his mother; sisters, Ann Gibson, Gloria B. Jones, Mickey Deer and Paula Herrod; two sons, Neville and Somachee Barnes; daughter, Johnetta Battiest; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and many special friends.

Pallbearers include: Legas Barnett; Palmer Noon; Alex Deer; Hillis Herrod; William Gouge; Steven Thompson and Toma Barnes.

Interment was held at the Barnes Family Cemetery in Wetumka.

HENRY BROWN

BIXBY — Funeral services for Henry Brown were held January 19 at Leonard & Marker Funeral Home with Rev. Jimmy Alexander officiating.

He was born November 8, 1926 in Eufaula to John and Alice Brown.

Henry graduated in 1947 from Liberty High School, where he was very active in sports. Brown and his brother, John D, played on the same basketball team and they were both outstanding players.

He was a christian man who was baptized in his earlier years.

Brown was a soldier who served in the U.S. Army during WWII and the Korean War. After his tour of duty, he was employed by North American Rockwell aviation where he later retired after several years of service.

Henry's hobbies included: wolf hunting and was a member of the Osage Hills Fox and Wolf Hunters Association; coaching softball and his team was a member of the Tulsa Fast Pitch Association; dominoes and won several domino tournaments and horse racing.

He was preceded in death by: his son; Henry Brown Jr.; parents; brother; Marchie Brown; and two sisters, Loda Stafford and Martha Sue Deo.

Survivors include: daughter, Phillis Quinn of Commerce, California; son, Jonathan Brown of Pauls Valley; four grandchildren; two-great grandchildren; two sisters, Dorothy Ciak of Topeka, Kansas and Grace Slinker of Mounds; three brothers, John of Bixby, Roy of Tulsa and Otis Brown of Mounds; and a host of other relatives.

Casketbearers include: Matt Ciak; Roger Bell; Charles Slinker; Vince Deo; John L. and John John Brown.

Interment was at Bixby Cemetery.

KENNETH CHILDERS

COWETA — Funeral services for Kenneth Leroy Childers were held February 8 at the First Baptist Church with Revs. Ed Rutherford, George Doyle and Randy Wilson officiating.

He was born at Claremore Hospital on May 31, 1940 to the late Mose Childers and Violet Williams.

Kenneth grew up in Coweta and graduated from CHS in 1958 where he played football and was in the 4-h club and FFA. After graduating from high school he joined the Navy and served for two years on the USS Breckenridge. He then went to Chicago Allied Institute where he learned the heating and air conditioning trade. From there he went to Dallas and married Sandra Delby.

Childers participated in rodeos from 1962 to 1980 as a bull rider. In 1967, he went to Texas to a horse shoeing school, where he learned the trade of a farrier, specializing in corrective shoeing. He and his family moved back to Coweta in 1969. He rode bulls in many rodeos in Texas, Oklahoma and at the Crow Fair in Montana. He rode his last bull at the age of 40 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. He was president of the Oklahoma All Indian Rodeo Association for 5 years.

Ken began working as the Indian Education Director for Coweta Public Schools in 1976 till the present. In 1996 his program was awarded the title of The Most Outstanding Indian Education program in the United States. While his children were growing up attending school in Coweta he coached them in little league sports.

He took great interest in working for his tribe, the Muscogee Creek Nation, and was elected to the first Muscogee Creek Nation National Council in 1979 representing the Wagoner, Rogers and Mayes County Districts. Childers had the distinguished honor of serving as Speaker of the House for 5 different terms. He served a total of 12 years for Creek Nation. He was especially proud that he was the Speaker of the House at the turn of the century and that his granddaughter, Megan Slayton, had won the title of Little Miss MCN.

Ken was a lifetime member of the Coweta American Legion and was recently awarded a plaque from the Coweta Roundup Club for helping to raise funds for a new arena.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Victor of Tulsa and Daniel Childers of Broken Arrow.

Survivors include: two sisters, Barbara Gillespie of Coweta and Joyce Bear of Tahlequah; two children, Kenneth Leroy Jr. and Jana Rae; and eight grandchildren.

Interment was at Vernon Cemetery in Coweta.

IRENE CLEGHORN

HOLDENVILLE — Funeral services were held for Irene Jacobs Cleghorn at Many Springs Indian Baptist Church with Rev. George Doyle officiating.

She was born November 10, 1914 to John Alexander and Nancy Tea Jacobs in Holdenville.

The family lived in an area commonly known as Little River. John and Nancy Jacobs family consisted of six girls and two boys. She attended Sacred Heart Catholic School and Chilocco Indian School, as well as Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater.

Irene served as a National Council Representative from the Tulsa District for 16 years.

Cleghorn was preceded in death by her husband: James G. Cleghorn; four sisters; and two brothers.

Survivors include: three sons, Robert J., Thomas W. and Ronald A.; sister, Anna Jacobs King; grandson; two great granddaughters; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Robert, Thomas and Jason Cleghorn; Jeff King; Roger Barnett; and George Tiger.

Interment was at the Holdenville City Cemetery.

ALLEN DAILEY

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Allen H. "Sonny Boy" Dailey were held January 15 at the Kelley Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Casey McIntosh and Rev. Alfred Berryhill officiating.

He was born May 16, 1949 to William Henry and Eliza Moore Dailey in Tahlequah.

Allen was a member of the Little Coweta Indian Church in Lenna.

Dailey was a featured artist with the Indian Territory Arts and Humanities Council and an internationally known artist.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Nathaniel Beaver.

Survivors include: wife, Glenda Washington of the home; three sons, Shannon of Tulsa, Christopher of Okmulgee and Edward Washington of Morris; three daughters, Judith King of Henryetta, Shyla Dailey and Melissa Pigeon, both of Okmulgee; two brothers, Woody Lee of Hoffman and John Timothy of Muskogee; two sisters, Glenda Scott and Edna Brownfield, both of Dewar; and fifteen grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Mark Beaver; Rocky Lee; Derick and Dionn Brownfield; Johnny Timothy II; Keith Scott; and Casey McIntosh.

Interment was at the Okmulgee Cemetery.

NORADOYLE

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Nora Wind Doyle were held January 12 at High Springs Indian Baptist Church with Revs. Amon Harjo and Harley Barnoski officiating.

She was born April 29, 1923 in Okemah to George Wind and Millie Burris Wind.

Nora was a homemaker. She moved to the Tulsa area in 1950. Doyle was a member of the High Springs Indian Baptist Church.

She married George Doyle on August 29, 1956 in Tulsa. They have celebrated 48 years of marriage.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; four brothers; and six sisters.

Survivors include: her husband; son, James Doyle of Tulsa; daughter, Verbenia S. Coulter of Beaver Creek, Oregon; fourteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a large group of nieces and nephews.

Casketbearers were: David Randolph; Willie Hale; Mike McChristian; Richard Wesley; Amon Deere; and Christopher Powell. Honorary Casketbearers were: Robert Washington; Paul Fixico; Charles Carey; Amos and Leonard Harjo.

Interment was at Highland Cemetery in Okemah.

DR. LEOLA TAYLOR

OWASSO — Funeral services for Dr. Leola Sayoha McGilbra Taylor were held February 8 at the First Assembly of God Church.

She was born August 29, 1916 in Eufaula to Lewis Alexander and Ethel Mae Davis McGilbra. Taylor was reared in the Eufaula and McAlester areas and graduated from Chilocco Indian School.

Leola was recently inducted into their Hall of Fame for her contributions to Indian education. She continued her education attending Southeastern State College at Durant where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in 1942. Her teaching career began at Oktaha, then Talihina, before taking a post at Stringtown, where she met Junius Jesse Taylor. They were married and moved to Atoka to teach with him.

Taylor worked many years for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as an administrator and education specialist. Between her BIA assignments and raising two children, Dr. Taylor received her Doctorate of Education in 1973 from OSU where she majored in school administration.

She was also a member of the Order of The Eastern Star of the State of Oklahoma and was a Past Matron. Leola was a member of the American Auxiliary of University Women, Kappa Kappa Iota, The Oklahoma Educational Association, the National Education

January District Court filings

Marriage License:

- None

Protective Orders:

- King: Scott v. McNac: Kim
Ex-Parte
- Starkey: Bart v. Walston: Ashley
Ex- Parte

Criminal Misdemeanor:

- None

Criminal Felonies:

- MCN v. Williams: Stuart
Aggrevated Battery

Traffic:

- MCN v. James: Terry
Failure to stop for stop sign
- MCN v. Schroeder: Brian
Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Mason: Jerry
Disorderly Conduct

Family Domestic:

- None

Divorce:

- Williams: Kyle v. Turpin: Faith
- Francis: Sandra v. Francis: Spencer

Civil/Small Claims:

- Community Hospital Lakeview v. Johnson: Barbara
Small Claims
- Security Finance v. Moore: Cassie
Small Claims
- Creditors Recovery v. Harjo: Nettie
Foreign Judgment
- Royal Finance v. Buckner: Ace
Small Claims
- Community Hospital Lakeview v. Casey: Linda
Small Claims
- Rowe: Jonita v. Anderson: Victor, Jr.
Petition

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,
Volume 34, Issue2, February 2005

Case No. AD-2004-06
In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
Okmulgee District: In The Matter of Adoption of K. D. P.
and Muscogee (Creek) Indian Minor Child

**SECOND AMENDED NOTICE BY
PUBLICATION**

TO: Misty Dawn Postoak and unknown father of K.
D. P. Address unknown
MISTY DAWN POSTOAK, MOTHER of K. D.
P. and UNKNOWN NATURAL FATHER OF K. D. P.
TAKE NOTICE that a petition for the Adpotion of said minor
child has been filed in the District Court of the Muscogee
(Creek) Nation, State of Oklahoma by Sue BunGarner, the
maternal great-grandmother of said minor child. The petition

alleges that you are the parents of K. D. P., born August 9,
1996 and that you have not supported or visited said K. D. P.
for a period of time in excess of one year. The Petition seeks to
proceed with the Adoption without your consent due to this
nonsupport of abandonment.

The Petition also seeks to waive the interlocutory order
and the six-month waiting period. The Petition will be heard on
the **11 day of April, 2005**, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable
Judge Patrick Moore in the District Court of the Muscogee
(Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

TAKE FUTHER NOTICE that an Application for a
hearing to determine that K.D. P. is eligible for adoption with-
out your consent was filed at the same time as the petition.
This would allow the adoption to continue without your ap-
proval and will result in the termination of your parental rights.
This application will be heard on the **14th day of March,
2005**, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Patrick Moore
in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tahl-
equah, Oklahoma

THE HEARING on the application cannot be held less
than twenty days from the time notice is provided to you. Fur-
ther, you may have certain rights under trival laws and Federal
Indian Child Welfare Act. These rights include the right to
appear at all hearings and the right to a court-appointed attor-
ney in the Court determines you are indigent. You also have
the right to request an additional twenty day to respond to this
action. You may have other rights under Tribal and Federal
law regarding this action.

You are therefore notified that the Court will hear evi-
dence in this application on the date shown. You have a right to
appear at this hearing and be heard as to your evidence.If you
fail to appear at the hearing scheduled in this notice, the Court
may find the constitutes a denial of your interest in said minor
child. The denial will lead, without further notice to you, of the
child’s adoption. This would determine your parental rights to
the above named child.

signed and dated this 17 day of January, 2005

/s/ Patrick Moore, Judge of the District Court
/s/ Josie C. Stanley, OBA # 19063; MCN # 185
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.
4200 Perimeter Center, Suite 222
Oklahoma City, Ok 73112
(405) 943-6457
Attorney for Petitioner

Moore

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year.

Surrounding the central area was a formidable pali-
sade 20 to 30 feet in height erected to protect and help repel
any hostile force that might advance on the town. These forts
had defense parapets every 30 to 40 feet for Red Stick ar-
chers when the town was under attack..

From a religious standpoint the inhabitants believed
the world they were born into was only a temporary place and
that below was a horrible watery place full of snakes and cold
blooded creatures, and above there was a beautiful world ruled
by the sun and symbolized by eagles and falcons. They be-

lieved when they died they went to higher place in the
universe, a land of plenty where they would be united with
their ancestors who had gone on before them.

Town artisans crafted pottery, made clothing, blan-
kets and mats by hand, formed jewelry out of copper from
northern Michigan, silver from the southwest, meteoric
iron, quartz and animal teeth. They sculpted pipes from
soap stone and slate, used sheets of mica from the Caro-
linas for silhouettes of animals and humans, shells from
the Gulf of Mexico, feathers from as far away as Central
America, obsidian from Wyoming, chalcedony from North
Dakota, slate, chert and freshwater pearls from their own
streams and quarries. They were expert tanners and made
use of furs for clothing and robes in the cooler months.
These craftsman also worked with drills, awls and scrap-
ers to produce gorgets and tightfitting bracelets. Skilled
wood carvers and sculptors produced beautiful eagles,
falcons and other animals for sale or trade.

The construction and maintenance of these large
pyramid towns required a substantial work ethnic and very
disciplined leadership. Engineers have estimated that one
seventy foot high pyramid would have required over 72,000
tons of earth and would have taken 1,000 workers over 5
years to construct. Material was often continually added
to the pyramid for up to a century resulting in some awe-
somely huge pyramids. As construction progressed exca-
vated pits were filled with freshwater and stocked with
fish to feed the general populace.

Each town had several storytellers who provided
entertainment and taught the lessons of the past to old and
young alike. Children played with dolls, animal toys, toy
canoes and the family watch dog.

Some towns had both summer and winter houses,
the winter house had a hearth inside for cooking and heat-
ing plus plaster walls to keep winter winds out, the sum-
mer house in contrast was more open and all cooking was
done outside.

Still visible today in central Alabama at Moundville,
along the Black Warrior River, are 6 of the more than 20
original temple pyramids built over 1000 years ago. This
complex was mysteriously abandoned during the late to
1300’s to early 1400’s, long before European explorers
arrived in North America. Scientists speculate that as the
population grew health risks due to poor sanitation may
have spawned epidemics that reduced the population and
prompted a return to smaller villages and towns.

Taylor

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Association, The Classroom Teachers Association, The
International Reading Association and a past member of the
Oklahoma State Reading Board.

Dr. Taylor was currently employed with the Muscogee
(Creek) Nation in Okmulgee as a grant writer.

Survivors include: son, Myron Taylor; daughter, Lynn
Newton, both of Owasso; six grandchildren; sister, Dovie Goins
of Checotah; and brother, Albert McGilbra of Oktaha.

Interment was at Greenhill Cemetery in Muskogee.

Shop talk with Gerald

Eventhough spring draws near, indoor activities continue. If you can grab a few good athletes you might want to consider entering the Sapulpa High School Native American Student Association (NASA) volleyball tournament. The weekend event will take place on Saturday, February 26. For more information call the Sapulpa Schools Indian Education Program at (918) 224-9322 or log onto the program's web-site at www.sapulpa.k12.ok.us.

Those interested in discovering or finding out more about the historic game of stickball may want to pay a visit to Tahlequah and the Cherokee Heritage Center. The exhibit will also focus on Cherokee athletes as well. Sports historians will find the exhibit about the game of stickball fascinating, a sport that certainly influenced all 5 tribes from the southeast that now make Oklahoma their home.

You know, sometimes sports and social issues collide and often their is no clear winner. As in any game, it all depends on what side you're on. The Oklahoma Senate is considering making State Senate Bill 567 a law. If in effect, the law would ban school sports teams from using titles associated with Native American ties. The controversial names of Redskins, Indians, or Braves would be outlawed. Now the bill may be changed to target names such as Savages or Redskins only.

If this bill becomes a law, Oklahoma could set a national precedent. California tried to pass a similar law last year, but, it was vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarznegger. Around 24 Oklahoma schools use the names with Native American ties. Again, it all depends on what side you're on. You will find many Native American people that are certainly opposed to any title associated with Indian mascots and find it insulting. It is also interesting to see many Native American people who have no problem with any sport mascot name and look at the various titles as a form of honor. Certainly a majority of the nonnative community have watched the Oklahoma Indian reaction, whether it is in support or not, and have certainly used either option to strengthen their cause.

It's unfortunate that some associations and friendships have been strained because of this issue. Hopefully a peaceful resolution can be reached. Realistically, the final decision will be hard for either party to accept. But in the end, hopefully Indian people can still be united.

Basketball is in high gear again. State tournaments, independent tournaments, and just about everything else is getting ready to take center stage. We are certainly on the eve of March Madness!

Remember to keep sending in sports information about all those great Creek athletes in your community. We can't brag on them if we don't know who there are!

Yuchi athlete makes impact with Razorbacks

by Gerald Wofford

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK. — The University of Arkansas Razorback Women's Tennis Coach Michael Hegarty and her coaching staff went to the desert sands of Arizona to snatch a star recruit Yawna Allen.

Allen, a 5'4 freshman from the Phoenix area, attended the Bollettier Tennis Academy in Florida a year ago. The Academy is where young and upcoming tennis athletes showcase their skills to the public and potential college recruiters. Tennis stars such as Andre Agassi and Monica Seles also attended the academy. While at Bollettier, Allen met Coach Hegarty who promptly offered the young athlete a scholarship.

Prior to beginning at Arkansas, Allen ranked as one of the top American Junior players breaking into the top 50 in the nation in the spring of 2004. In April of the same year, Allen reached the round of 32 in the Easter Bowl Championships, one of the most prestigious junior tournaments in the country. Allen, who has been playing competitively since the age of 10, earned 18 wins and only 1 loss in the southwest region

and collected 3 tournament titles, including the Arizona Junior Open.

She also competed in the National Indian Championships in July of last year and won the championship. Allen even made the consolation quarterfinals of the Copper Bowl at Tucson.

Winning and experiencing great success has continued for Allen. Since she began her Lady Razorback singles career, Allen is undefeated in four matches to capture her first championship at the 2004 Lady Razorback Invitational.

Allen's family are no strangers to the game of tennis, her mother, Casaja, played in

the number one position for the women's team at Haskell when it was a Junior College.

Besides having a great tennis program, Allen chose Arkansas because her mother, grandparents, and aunts were all moving back to Oklahoma. Allen is majoring in Journalism/Business and is also a writer. Some of her works can be seen on the internet at: www.poetry.com



University of Arkansas Tennis Star Yawna Allen and her mother Casaja

Creek athlete contributes to Sequoyah basketball team's success

TAHLEQUAH — The Sequoyah team just keeps on rolling and Muscogee (Creek) athlete Justin Marshall is a contributing member. Marshall, who hails from Eufaula, is one of the reasons why the Indians are enjoying a number one ranking in High School Class 3A basketball.

Coach Larry Grigg is pleased with Marshall's play. "We have Justin listed as our four position, which is a post forward," explains Grigg. "He (Justin) has helped us on our defense, and has even turned a few games around in our favor. He is an excellent rebounder. He only averages 6 points per game, but we rely on him for his defense and rebounding ability, which is how he helps us the most."

One important contest the Indians faced earlier

this season was their instate rival, the Riverside Braves. The Braves defeated them and eliminated Sequoyah

from the 2004 Class 3A state basketball tournament. In the first face-off this year, the Indians found themselves behind 22-36 in the first half, but rallied in the second half by scoring 50 points and holding the Braves to only 27 points for a 72-63 win. Marshall's play was very key in the second half.

"I concentrate on improving each and every game and look towards one goal, a state championship," said Marshall.

Marshall, as well as the rest of the Indians team, looks forward to district play where they square off

against the Henryetta Knights on Friday, Feb. 18 in Briggs.



Marshall